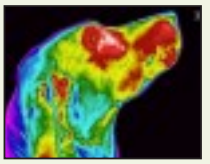
KIDDERMINSTER
thechronicle
FEBRUARY 24, 2011
15p when sold

Vet tool takes a new look at animal insides

– see page 2



Mayflower returns from the States in new venture

– see page 5

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Council review on civic centre's future as protests grow over HQ

A DECISION on the future of Stourport Civic Centre will be made following the completion of a review this year.

The centre has served as Wyre Forest District Council's headquarters for decades but will become redundant when the authority moves to a new building next year.

A campaign has already been launched to ensure the building is retained for community use rather than being sold off to a private buyer.

The authority has not yet decided what to do with the building and has set up a review. The centre is one of three council-owned offices expected to be sold to raise cash for the new £10.5million headquarters being built at Finepoint Business Park, Kidderminster. Dates to put the other two properties on the market have not been finalised.

They will remain in use until the new headquarters has been completed, which is expected to be the summer of 2012. The council's other main office at Duke House is rented.

UKIP protesters try to rally support

Tendering to find a suitable contractor for the works has started and the successful firm is expected to be announced this spring. The new building will provide facilities for 200 staff.

The council chamber, meeting rooms and civic rooms will also be relocated to the new building. But the plan has proved controversial.

Both the Independent Health Concern and Labour groups say the council should not have embarked on such a project in the current financial climate. And the district's UKIP branch has launched a petition which has attracted a claimed 3,300-plus signatures. It was being presented, in a three-minute slot, at a full meeting of the district council last night (February 23) alongside a motion to reaffirm the council's decision on the project.

UKIP campaigner Michael Wrench, who stood for the party in the last General Election, said: "I am delighted with how many people have come forward and supported us.

"This clearly demonstrates just how much opposition there is across the district to this project."

But council leader Councillor John Campion said the move would save the authority £500,000 every year, which could be put back into its services.

"This will be more cost-effective then the present situation where council services are split," he said.

"No final decision has yet been made in regards to the civic centre but the review is continuing.

"There is no date for when the other buildings we own will go on the market but it will be done at the correct time to ensure we get the most out of them."

Time limit on protesters over incinerator plan

FIVE MINUTE WARNING

A PROTEST group will have just five minutes to make its final plea against controversial plans to construct a £120million incinerator in Hartlebury.

Worcestershire residents Against Incineration and Landfill (Wail) will put its case against the proposed energy from waste facility on Tuesday, March 1.

Worcestershire County Council's planning committee will then consider the application from Mercia Waste Management at a County Hall meeting to be broadcast live on the council's website from 10am.

It has been recommended for approval.

The Wail committee has been fighting against the application for the Hartlebury Trading Estate since EnviRecover submitted it to Wyre Forest District Council in April last year.

Wail chairman Ray Kirby believes five minutes is far from a sufficient time, considering the importance of the application.

"The committee of Wail are concerned on reading the report supplied to the planning committee as it appears that a number of points, which were raised in our objection document, have been either misinterpreted or ignored.

"Unfortunately we will only be granted five minutes to respond to what is the most important planning decision the county council has had to make in its history.

"We are disappointed that on no occasion in this process

By Sarah Hazelwood

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

have Wail been asked to clarify any issues raised in our objection document. MP Peter Luff, in a recent press release, said this incinerator is a 20th century solution to a 21st century problem, and we endorse his sentiments," he added.

HEAVY

"The residents of Worcestershire need to realise that they will pay a heavy financial burden and environmental price for years to come if this proposal is passed," he added.

"We are hoping for significant support by local and Worcestershire residents on the day to make their feelings known against this proposal."

Members of the public are invited to attend, but spaces in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Worcester, will be limited.

More than 700 individuals took part in public consultations last year.

But only 140 people can be accommodated inside the venue next week.

Diane Tilley, director of planning, economy and performance at Worcestershire County Council, said: "We anticipate a high level of interest.

"Unfortunately, there's a limit to the amount of people who can attend, for reasons of safety and physical space, so we'll be showing the whole meeting live on our website," she added.

"We don't want to disappoint anyone because we always encourage communities to follow our work, so I hope our advice helps to satisfy as many people as possible."

Car parking will not be available on the day, except for Blue Badge holders, but anyone who wishes to attend the meeting can use a free coach service which will leave the Talbot pub car park in Hartlebury at 8.45am.

PROCESS

Advance coach tickets are available from Hartlebury Post Office or by visiting www.wail.uk.net

For more details of the application and the planning process, visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/hartleburyefw

Thieves foiled in tractors grab bid

THIEVES were thwarted in two bids to steal tractors in the Wyre Forest.

They damaged a window and the dashboard in an attempt to start a tractor in Stourport Road, Bewdley, causing about £200 worth of damage. They did manage to move one at Pound Bank, Rock part way down a drive before abandoning it.

The first incident happened between 6pm on Friday, February 4 and 7am the following day. The second took place between 9.30pm and midnight on Friday, February 4.

These two incidents follow three similar ones which happened at the beginning of February in Hadley, Ombersley and Hartlebury. Police are currently looking into whether these are related.

Pc Robert Mills, from Bewdley, said: "We are appealing to anyone who was in the area over the evening of Friday, February 4 and saw anyone acting suspiciously to call us as soon as possible."

Ring 0300 333 3000 ext 3901 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Date for charity walk set

A BREAST cancer charity is getting ready for an annual fundraising walk at a beauty spot near Kidderminster.

The Rainbow Breast Reconstruction Group is staging the event at Bodenham Arboretum, Wolverley, on April 26.

The group, based at the White House centre in Ednam Road, Dudley, has raised more than £40,000 for good causes in the region.

The walk will get under way at 11am and feature live music.

For more information call 01384 393077.

Martial arts summit for Ron, 80

Ron Bampfield, left, is congratulated on his award by Mick Matthews

A KIDDERMINSTER man has been given the highest award possible in the martial art of Ju-Jitsu – at the age of 80.

Ron Bampfield, of Lister Drive, founded the Kidderminster Martial Arts Club in 1972.

Now aged 80, he still coaches every Monday when the club meets at the town's Youth House in Bromsgrove Street.

Last month Ju-Jitsu coaches, all previously taught by Mr Bampfield, came from all over the country to Kidderminster for a surprise presentation of his tenth Dan.

It is the highest grade for a blackbelt, making him a Master of the art.

Ron's love of the sport stems from his army days in Malaysia when he volunteered for special training. Back home, and keen to continue his studies, he made crash mats from sacks of straw.

Ceilings

Eventually he helped to form a Judo club in Kidderminster and after being evicted from numerous venues for cracking ceilings they set up in Foley Park School.

In 1972 he founded the Kidderminster martial arts club at the youth centre (now Kidderminster)Youth House which he attends to this day.

Mick Matthews of the club said: "Kidderminster Ju-Jitsu club is proud that its instructor has received this highest accolade in martial arts.

"It was awarded to a very shy, self-effacing, skilled and dedicated individual.

"As a modest man, he was truly surprised and humbled at receiving it. Judo and Ju-Jitsu are his life. For him, it is natural to do what he does."

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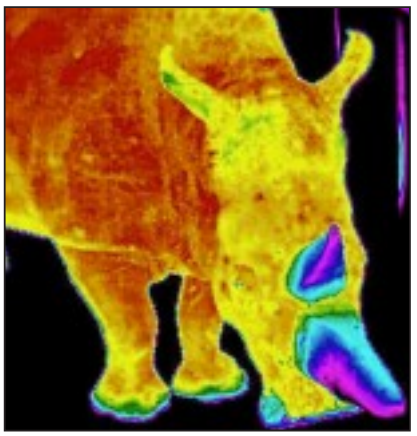
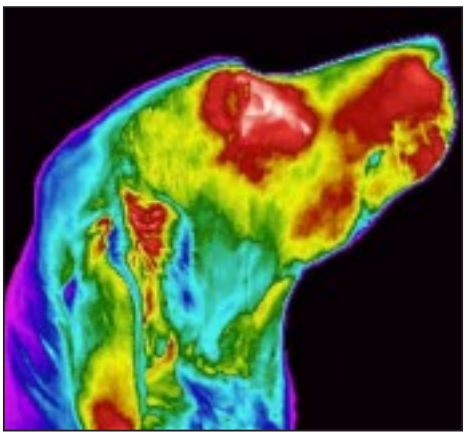
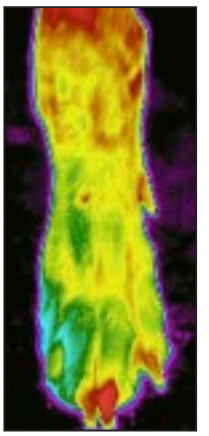


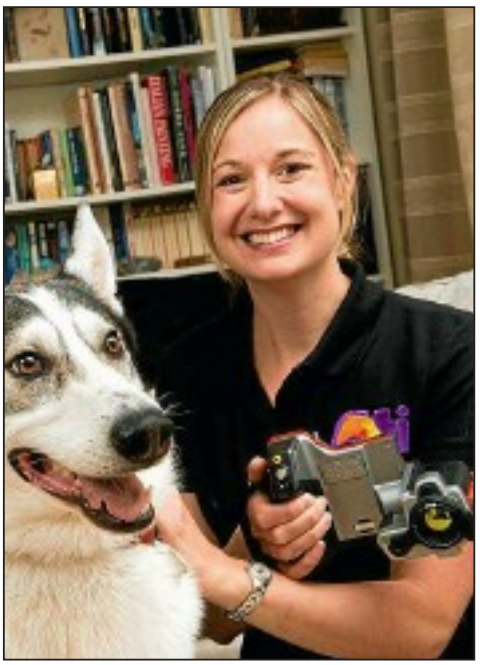
Even a rhino can get the point of thermal imaging



Man's best friend, in colour



Heat focused in a claw



Helen Morrell with dog Darcy. *Picture: Professional Images*

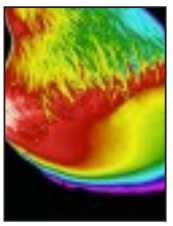
Heat is on as Helen finds the diagnosis

A KIDDERMINSTER woman is turning up the heat with a new veterinary diagnostic tool.

Helen Morrell hopes to see the Veterinary Thermal Imaging service rolled out across the country.

It is claimed to be the UK's first such all-species device and can be used on all sorts of creatures, from cats, dogs and horses through livestock and on to zoo or marine life.

The VTI provides a visual management tool for diagnosing, monitoring and treating injury, illness and disease.



A band of heat on a hoof

Using a specially designed camera it detects heat emitted from the animal, turning it into electrical pulses.

These pulses are assigned a colour, depending on the temperature readings – the various colours will flag up problem areas.

Use of the device quickly pinpoints where an animal is in pain, limiting distress.

Veterinary Thermal Imaging (VTI) VTI works under a code of conduct prescribed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is an extension to diagnostic tools such as x-rays, MRI scans and Ultrasound.

Course

Mrs Morrell, founder of VTI and a veterinary physiotherapist, was the first person from the UK to be accepted onto the thermal imaging course at the

Veterinary tool that shows pain hotspots

University of Florida's vet school last year.

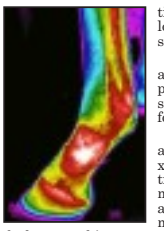
"VTI is a great opportunity for UK animal professionals and owners to use a service that is non-invasive, emits no radiation, can be repeated as often as required and can eliminate the need for other expensive investigations," said 35-year-old Mrs Morrell.

"VTI is an effective, low cost, mobile solution that reveals where an animal's problems lie, fast and without causing pain or distress.

Traditional

"We don't replace traditional veterinary services but rather enhance them," added Mrs Morrell, who used to live in Kidderminster and Bliss Gate but is now in Oxfordshire with her husband and two-year-old son.

"Whilst most diagnostic tests focus on specific anatomical areas, and require a degree of



Hotspots on the leg of an animal

disruption before anything can be picked-up, our method addresses the physiology of the animal which can change prior to any major anatomical disruption," said Mrs Morrell, who is looking at franchising the service.

"This being the case, you can apply the stitch in time philosophy, hopefully saving money, stress and your animal's discomfort."

It's claimed that a full VTI appraisal can be cheaper than an x-ray. It also pinpoints issues for treatment or further tests, determines the extent of an injury, allows an owner to monitor treatment progress and can even pinpoint the reason for behaviour problems, many of them being seated in pain. More details on website www.veterinary-thermal-imaging.com

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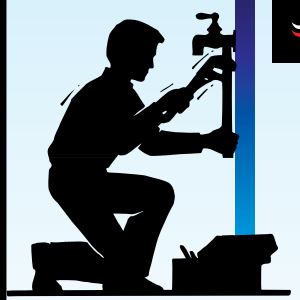

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Charity boost after theft case verdict

A WORCESTERSHIRE charity is to benefit by £1,000 after a businessman was cleared of theft from a neighbouring firm on a Stourport industrial estate.

Company boss Alvan Burgess had denied stealing a shipping container and its load of metal at Worcester Crown Court.

During the trial, Burgess produced an envelope which he said contained £1,000 in cash which was the proceeds of the sale of the metal.

After the not guilty verdict his barrister Jason Macadam said he had been instructed that the money would go to the Noah's Ark Trust charity in Worcester.

The prosecution alleged that 50-year-old Burgess, of Bayfield Gardens, Dymock, Gloucestershire, had arranged for the container to be moved 50 yards from the premises of Living Looms Ltd to his own, Akribis Metrology.

Internet

He told the jury that he thought the container, worth £1,200, had been abandoned and he had tried in vain to find the owner.

This included a trawl on the internet and a trip round Oxfordshire.

In the end, he arranged for a dealer to sell the antique carpet loom parts in the container, the court heard.

When police started inquiries, he tried in vain to retrieve the scrap. Burgess agreed that no-one had given him permission to take the container. But he said he moved it because he believed it had been abandoned.

The container was said to have housed 500 spools, 500 tube frames, loom parts and cages.

Site managing agent Philip Thompson had told the court staff from other units informed him the container had been emptied and moved. Burgess later left him "in no doubt" that he had permission to move it.

Blood donor sessions are set

BLOOD donor sessions have been set up at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster on Friday, March 4. They run from 1.15-3.30pm and 4.30-7.15pm. Appointments are recommended; call 0300 123 2323 to book.

Pupils who know the score

FOUR pupils at Winterfold House School in Chaddesley Corbett have won no fewer than six music scholarships between them.

Henry Thomas, aged 12, has gained music scholarships to Shrewsbury School and Cheltenham College – the top music award in each instance.

Henry Newbould, 13, has gained music scholarships to Shrewsbury School and RGS Worcester – as well as three other academic and all rounder scholarships.

Jazz

Brittany Collie, 12, has gained a Music Scholarship to Bromsgrove School and Olivia Wormald, 13, has won one to Bromsgrove School.

All four pupils are grade five level or above in several instruments and all play in Winterfold's jazz band, The Groove Diggers.

Henry Thomas recently gained two Grade sevens with distinction in piano and trumpet and is also a member of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain.

He and Henry Newbould both play in the Worcester Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Musical scholarship winners, from left, Henry Thomas, Brittany Collie, Henry Newbould and Olivia Wormald

Martin faces dog pound

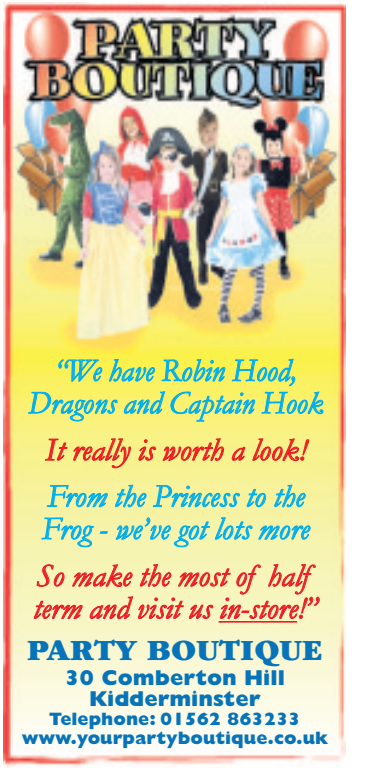
AN ARLEY runner is tackling the London Marathon for Forest Dog Rescue.

Martin Willmott will pound the streets of the capital on April 17 in the Virgin London Marathon for the Far Forest-based dog charity.

FDR fundraising manager Maureen Shaffery said: "We purchased our own kennels last year and are now seeking support to fund a number of new initiatives in 2011." They include building a new kennel block.

"We are so thrilled that local people will do these extraordinary things to help the dogs and we are very grateful for Martin's support," she added.

Anyone who would like to sponsor Martin should visit the website www.forest-dog.rescue.org.uk



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Scout leader killed by one in a million illness

Victim Stuart Hanslow

A GRIEVING widowhas spoken about her husband's death from a sudden and devastating brain illness that strikes "one in a million".

Popular scout leader and father-of-three Stuart Hanslow, aged 53, was being treated for stress and depression as he became forgetful.

But he was diagnosed with "sporadic" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), a version caused by random changes in the brain, three hours before he died.

Tests following his death, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, on January 28, have eliminated the variant of CJD caused by eating infected meat.

IT consultant Mr Hanslow's widow, Jo, aged 52, said at their home in Habberley Road, Kidderminster: "He was going downhill quite quickly and by Christmas his speech had gone. If he tried to say a sentence it was like a record being played backwards."

Stourbridge-bred Mr Hanslow was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley and moved to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on January 27.

Mrs Hanslow told of being given a CJD diagnosis just three hours before he died.

"There is no cure for it, so in some ways it was better that he never knew what he had got," said Mrs Hanslow, a sales assistant at Marks & Spencer, Kidderminster.

Troop

"They are 99 per cent sure it was sporadic CJD, which affects one person in a million."

Mr Hanslow was troop leader of the 8th Kidderminster St John's Scout Group and his children are Samantha, aged 23, Daniel, 20, and Drew, 15.

His funeral is on February 25, with a family-only service at Stourbridge Crematorium, followed at 3.30pm by a service at St Mary's Church, Kidderminster.

Scammers try Council Tax ruse on phone

SCAMMERS are ringing up Wyre Forest residents and offering them a discount on their Council Tax.

The district council was alerted to the ruse by a concerned local resident.

She was telephoned by someone claiming to be from a Government department, offering a substantial discount on her Council Tax dating back several years. No such discounts are paid.

During the call the resident was asked for private information, which she did not supply.

Councillor Nathan Desmond, cabinet member for resources, said: "We would like to warn our residents to be on their guard for potential scams for Council Tax. It is highly likely that this was an attempt to secure private information including bank account details which would have led to a fraud.

Quick

"I would like to praise the quick thinking of our resident in spotting that this was a hoax and also alerting the council."

The council is liaising with police over the call.

Anyone with further information or who has been contacted should call the revenues section on 01562 732928.

Jump to it for Great School Run

Colin Jackson and Nell McAndrew leap into action with pupils from Greenwich, London

MODEL Nell McAndrew and three-time world record hurdler Colin Jackson are urging schools in Kidderminster to take part in the UK's biggest fun run.

Now in its seventh year, the Tesco Great School Run encourages children and their parents to get fit and healthy through exercise and healthy eating.

Since registration began last month, 604,146 youngsters from more than 2,000 schools across the UK have signed up to take part in the two-kilometre (1.2miles) run.

In the West Midlands alone 68,751 children have already signed. Participating schools must arrange for their own individual fun runs to take place any time between May 9 and July 22.

Now Nell and Colin are challenging all Wyre Forest schools which haven't already done so to register for the event.

Nell said: "This year, we're expecting more than one million children to take part and I wouldn't want Kidderminster to miss out.

Website

"Any parents and children who want to participate, talk to your teacher and ask them to check out the website at www.greatschoolrun.org."

Colin Jackson CBE, who is supporting the run for the fourth consecutive year said: "The Tesco Great School Run has something for everyone.

"It's not about setting personal bests or world records – it's about people of all abilities and ages keeping fit and healthy and above all, having fun. We call it a run but people are welcome to jog it, walk it or wheel it. We don't mind how you do it, just as long as you do."

The team will be conducting a national warm-up tour of selected schools between May 9 and June 17. During June, Colin and Nell will take to the sky on a helicopter tour, touching down at schools around the UK and meeting with youngsters that are taking part.

Badgers to get bridge in plan for Tesco store

BADGERS will get their own bridge to help them cross a river without danger from cars as part of plans to build a Tesco store in Stourport.

The store giant is finally to start work at the site, in Severn Road, Stourport, within weeks following delays caused by a legal wrangle with a rival firm.

Preparatory works are set to begin at the former Carpets of Worth site to make sure the land is ready for construction to begin later in the year.

The early stages include preparing the site for a badger bridge across the River Stour which runs to the back of the supermarket site.

There are habitats along the banks of the river and the Environment Agency was concerned the animals would use a planned new road bridge to cross to the other side.

Parallel

The road bridge will run from Resolution Way around the back of Golden Hind Drive and cross the river into the supermarket site.

It is designed to be the main access. But to stop badgers using this road, a separate bridge is planned that will run parallel to the road bridge over the river.

Planning permission for the development was upheld by the Court of Appeal last year after the Mid-Counties co-operative launched a legal bid.

Corporate affairs manager for Tesco Tony Fletcher said: "We are really pleased to be able to start work at last."

Views are wanted on Kings

RESIDENTS, groups and businesses are being asked to give their views on plans for Areley Kings Conservation Area.

Wyre Forest District Council's policy and regeneration Team is preparing a character appraisal of the Areley Kings Conservation Area.

This is a document outlining the significance and special interest of a Conservation Area; it guides and informs planning policy.

The team would like the views of local people and business about important features of the area. Conservation Area status was granted by the council in 1993.

The consultation runs until March 31. Comments can be emailed to conservation@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or sent to: Policy and regeneration manager, planning and regulatory services directorate, Duke House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster. DY10 2JX.

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Mayflower sets sail on return trip to homeland

Susan Harrington-James with one of her antiques

AN ANTIQUES expert has returned from the United States to her hometown of Hagley to set up an on-line business.

Susan Harrington-James has officially launched Mayflower Antiques from her new base in West Hagley.

The 60-year-old specialises in rare 16th, 17th, and early 18th century pieces. To help launch the new venture, Mayflower is already displaying some of its pieces at the Bailiff's House bar and Bistro, High Street, Bewdley – a building dating back to 1610.

Susan, who left for the States 10 years ago, said: "I not only hope to establish Mayflower across the West Midlands, where there is a growing band of interested antique collectors, but also to establish us internationally.

"Antique collectors from across the UK and Europe will be coming to Hagley to view our antiques and I am sure that this will also be great news for the local economy.

By Sarah Hazelwood

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

Dream

"Collecting antiques has always been a passion, so turning that into a serious business is a dream come true.

"I have been lucky to travel the world over the years and during that time developed a real excitement for rare 16th and 17th century pieces.

"The business has built a wide selection of unusual treasures and I wanted to share these with as many people as possible by publicly displaying them in Bewdley.

"I hope local people and visitors to the town will get to enjoy them."

Susan, who has moved from her home in New England, also decided to relocate to the West Midlands to be closer to her family.

To view the on-line shop visit the website www.mayflower-antiques.co.uk

Teens can check on the options

TEENAGERS in Kidderminster with disabilities are being invited to a networking event next month to discuss different services open to them after they finish school.

"Life after school" is designed to give young people with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties a flavour of local facilities and encourage them to start thinking about their options.

The event, organised by county council-backed advisory service Connexions, will see a host of different organisations represented to give advice.

The networking event, now in its fifth year, will feature local colleges, including residential establishments, day care centres, training providers and information groups. It is also viewed as an opportunity for parents and guardians to swap advice. Connexions personal adviser Chris Boxall said: "This evening offers people the chance to explore ideas in a relaxed and informal way."

It will be held at Kidderminster Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, on Tuesday, March 8 (6-8pm).

Details: 01562 820110 during office hours.

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Very special celebrations for two local residents

Jack and his late wife Winn back in 1935

Jack Jones with his 'sweetheart', 59-year-old Adele Cleeton

Pals keeping me young at 103, declares Jack

DATES with much younger "girlfriends" and weekly outings to the pub with the "lads" are helping to keep Jack Jones young at heart – at the age of 103.

The Stourbridge centenarian has three regular dates but says the top of his list and his "sweetheart" is 59-year-old Adele Cleeton, of Kingswinford, who takes him out to the theatre and restaurants and visits him at least once a week.

He met Adele about eight years ago when she was visiting her parents, who used to live near Jack.

"She's my sweetheart and very special to me – it's a bit too late for me to propose but I would if I was a few years younger," said Jack.

"We're going to see Joseph at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton soon."

Adele said: "Jack is the nicest young man that I know and we have a lovely, platonic relationship."

Jack, who lives off Enville Street, Stourbridge, also goes on outings with a 36-year-old from Brierley Hill, who recently took him to the cinema in Merry Hill, and a 72-year-old from Hagley who visits him twice a week and takes him on drives.

Jack Jones in the 1940s

Pint

"The young friends I've got give me an incentive to keep going," he said.

Jack popped into his favourite pub, The Greyhound in Norton Road, for his weekly free pint of ale on Wednesday, along with his "chauffeur", 90-year-old Harold Haywood, and "young" friend Howard Cartwright, 85.

Staff and customers at The Greyhound put out banners and a cake to mark his latest birthday-which he reached on Saturday, February 12.

The pub awarded him a free pint of bitter once a week for life two years ago – and the West Bromwich Albion fan still claims it every Wednesday.

Jack and Harold, of Farmcroft Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, worked together as long distance lorry drivers for 46 years, first at Taylor Law in Stourbridge and later at the Bluebird toffee factory in Hunnington, near Halesowen.

Jack was born in Enville, near Stourbridge, and later moved with his family to Churchill and then Hackman's Gate, both near Hagley.

When he was 17 and had passed his driving test he says he "sprouted" his wings and travelled all over the country working.

He did not stop driving until he was aged 96.

He and his wife, Winn, wed in 1939 and had been married almost 50 years when she died.

Jack, aged 103, celebrates his special birthday

Sugary tea's the sweet secret of Florence, 103

DOUBLE celebrations were held last week when Florence Reeve became a great grandmother for the third time – on her 103rd birthday.

Her birthday, on Valentine's Day, was even more special with the birth of great-grandson Yuzuna in Paris that morning.

Mrs Reeve's day started with morning coffee with family at the Queen's Hotel, Belbroughton. In the afternoon a party with entertainment was held at Breach House residential home, in Holy Cross Lane, Belbroughton, where she has lived for the last six years.

The Stourbridge branch of Waitrose provided an extra surprise with flowers, champagne and a card along with the birthday cake ordered from the store. Her two daughters Carole, aged 72, and Susan, 63, together with 65-year-old son John, were delighted by the gesture.

Daughter Carole Swingler, said: "Everyone shared the delicious cake which had a token four candles for Florence to blow out – there wasn't really room for 103."

Production

Mrs Reeve also has three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. She was born in Coventry on February 14, 1908 – the same year the first car was put into production by American Henry T Ford.

Mrs Reeve worked as a weaver and embroiderer for firms in the Midlands.

She married Phillip in 1934. The couple moved to Worcestershire in 1970, where they both enjoyed walking and modern sequence dancing.

After her husband died in 1994, Florence moved to Wolverley, near Kidderminster, before transferring to Breach House.

Mrs Reeve puts her age down to sipping countless brews with three spoons of sugar. Mrs Swingler said: "The family joke that she is preserved in syrup like a tinned peach!

"She's not had an easy life, for example she lived through the blitz in Coventry. But this has led to great spirit and determination."

Florence Reeve marks the big day

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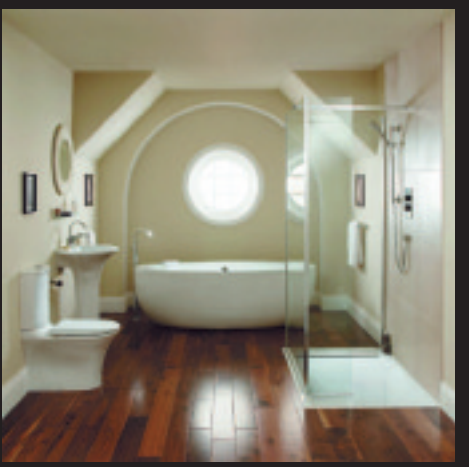

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It's capital – firm has the answer

IT WAS a case of David against Goliath when a Hartlebury firm took part in a local radio quiz.

Staff at Central Weighing Ltd, which employs 25 people, were pitted against the combined might of Sandwell Council in the week-long War of the Workplace on Radio Wyvern – but won.

The victors, who supply weighbridges and also tackle fleet management, clinched the honours in a dramatic final round which hinged on knowledge of capital cities, the English Civil War, Greek resorts and a couple of corny jokes.

Their prize is a lunch from sponsors Greggs and a night out at a Worcester nightspot.

Central Weighing Ltd quiz team winners, from left, Phil Archer, Frank Adderley, Geoff Bellamy, captain Luke Harris, Jo Bradley and Debbie Walker

Harry Potter and the carpet men of 1861 census

A REAL-LIFE Victorian Harry Potter and numerous Kidderminster carpet workers are among a host of characters from 150 years ago, uncovered by Worcestershire Record Office.

The work has been carried out in advance of next month's census, scheduled to take place on March 27, and offers a tantalising glimpse into the county's past.

The 1861 census for Kidderminster reveals many townsfolk were working in the carpet trade, as might be expected, including the Evans family.

They lived at 85 Worcester Street, which was shared by mum and dad John and Ann with their seven children.

John was a carpet weaver working on a powerloom. Two sons, Samuel and Thomas, worked on handloom, despite the tender ages.

Meanwhile, little Harry Potter was three months old in the census of 1861 and lived in the village of Pirton.

Paul Hudson at work on the county's history

Patchy

Like many men of the time his father, Philip, was a tradesman, employed as a blacksmith.

Little more about Harry is known. In comparison with the 2011 census – which is likely to be around 30 pages long – early censuses were less detailed, and the resulting information more patchy.

Nonetheless they provide an invaluable historical tool and a snapshot into times gone by. They also form one of the most crucial sources for family historians tracing how people's lives have changed over the years.

The 1861 census for Worcester introduces us to three year-old Edward Elgar, who lived in the city's College Yard with father William, a piano tuner, four siblings and a live-in servant. From his relatively humble origins, Elgar would go on to become one of the most famous classical composers in the world.

The 1861 documents also reveal that two Worcestershire gentlemen, 65-year-old William Perrins and John W Lea, aged 69, were enjoying a comfortable lifestyle some 30 years after the launch of their Worcestershire sauce.

Mr Perrins lived in Lansdowne Crescent – a top city address – with his wife, two servants and niece. John Lea had four servants, including a coachman, and lived in Upper Wick with his two children as well as two guests.

Of course, not everybody listed in the census went on to be recognised for the right reasons. In 1861, one Moses Shrimpton lived at Webb Heath in Feckenham, near Redditch, with his wife, father in-law and three children.

Poacher

Moses and his wife were both needle makers, but Moses was also a poacher on the side. In 1885, petty crime turned to murder. Moses was convicted of killing Pc Davis of Beoley whom it is believed caught him in the act of poaching. He was hanged at Worcester Gaol later that year.

Paul Hudson, head of Worcester History Centre, said: "Historical census data is not only really interesting but an absolute gold mine for historians. Understanding how people lived in the past helps us trace the way that family-life has evolved."

For more information about the Record Office visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/recordoffice

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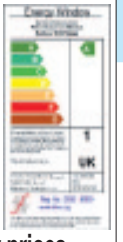

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Here comes the sun at park

Costume characters Leo and Leonard make an opening splash with Californian Sea Lion Callum

SUMMER is here – or it is at the West Midland Safari Park.

The Bewdley attraction has now opened for the season – and the gates will stay open every day until November.

The park, voted best Midlands attraction by parents and children in an Advantage West Midlands poll, is greeting the "warm weather" with a campaign offering 10 per cent savings for a family of four on normal admission prices.

For details, visit www.wmsp.co.uk or call 01299 402114.

StopAd starts the sales for garage

CAR SALES are popping up for a Kidderminster garage which has signed up to an outdoor media campaign.

All Electric Garages at Churchfields has linked with StopAd – a sign displayed in parking spaces.

A narrow, flexible pole carries the advertisement at driver eye height.

When the car touches the pole the ad moves and the driver knows it's time to stop the car.

The sign helps drivers park with fewer bumps as well as carrying the advertiser's message.

Neil Dickens, sales manager at All Electric, said: "Since inserting StopAds in our local multi-storey car park approximately four weeks ago, we have had eight enquiries and sold five cars."

Jobs helping to preserve county's past

FIVE new graduate jobs are to be created in Worcestershire – including one in Hartlebury – thanks to £148,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The funding will see a partnership between Worcestershire County Council, the University of Worcester and several heritage organisations.

The five new posts are part of a project called Nurturing Worcestershire's Treasures.

The graduates will work in heritage jobs at The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Lower Broadheath; The Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle and University Research Collections; Worcester Cathedral Library and Archive; The George Marshall Medical Museum in Worcester and the Worcester Porcelain Museum.

Access

These museums and libraries will form a working partnership to encourage public access and heritage tourism through proper care of, and access to, Worcestershire's past.

The graduates will specialise in curatorial skills, digital archiving, marketing, creating exhibitions and fundraising. After a three-month induction the graduates, who will be taken on under the university's current Salaried Graduate Internship Scheme, will spend a year working while also completing a Postgraduate Certificate at the University of Worcester.

A batter way to success

IT'S frying pans at the ready next month for Shrove Tuesday pancake races in Kidderminster.

Entrants will come to their marks in a series of sprints between 10am and noon on Tuesday, March 8.

Races will start in Worcester Street and end outside the Town Hall in what is hoped to become an annual event.

The event, together with a coffee morning in The Corn Exchange, is being organised by Trinity Methodist Church with proceeds to a restoration fund.

Entry fee is £1 per person; call 01299 404226 or 01562 824450 to register.

Start times have yet to be confirmed but the planned order is as follows: 10am, mothers and toddlers; 10.20am, ladies; 10.40am, gentlemen; 11am, over-60s; 11.15am, relays.

Cash boost for the mentors

PPDG branch manager Jenny Nixon is thanked by Kat Stephenson, manager at Mentor Link's Stourport High Street shop

MENTORS at schools in the Wyre Forest have been boosted by a £250 donation from Kidderminster workers.

Employment and training specialist Pertemps People Development Group (PPDG), of Church Street, Kidderminster helps prepare job seekers for a return to work.

Staff suggested a donation from its Payroll Giving scheme to Bewdley-based charity Mentor Link.

The project began in 2004 at the former Bewdley High School. Mentor Link now trains volunteers to act as mentors to young people across 13 schools. The mentors befriend and support those facing difficulties including deprivation, family breakdown, substance misuse, illness, bereavement, crime and neglect.

Mentor Ling chief executive Andrea Maddocks said: "A huge thank you is due to all the staff at PPDG.

"Young people often face a number of issues and having someone to turn to for a listening ear can make all the difference.

"The Church Street staff have also been a great source of help by providing our retail outlet on Stourport's High Street with volunteers on monthly work placements."

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WAKE UP TO BREAKFAST WITH TOM CAMPBELL

TOP TEN PLAYLIST OF WEEK

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Lady Gaga

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Higher
Taio Cruz
ft Kylie Minogue

Price Tag
Jessie J

Rolling in the Deep
Adele

Not a Love Song
Wonderland

Lights
Ellie Goulding

Keeping My Baby
Duffy

Back to December
Taylor Swift

Fish fingers and chips! Bad news on cabbage

If there's one thing I miss from my "yoof" it's probably half-term. A whole week off! Staying in bed 'til lunchtime; kickabout on the big field with Basher, Jimbo and Ratter; shortcut home through Mr Wilson's back garden stepping all over his prize-winning cabbage patch and back home just in time for fish fingers and chips!

Yes, half-terms were always brilliant and if I could bring one thing from my childhood into my adult life it would be an obligatory week off where you had to go and play football on a muddy pitch with your mates from up the road.

Despite this, the Tom Campbell Breakfast Show marches on, something Mr Wilson and his prize-winning cabbages are no doubt chuffed to bits about.

Not only is it half-term this week but it's also National Chip Week.

We celebrated five days of oven-baked potatoey goodness by giving away bags of chips to some very lucky listeners as well as giving a shedload of fun facts about everybody's favourite sidekick for a cheeseburger (well, mine at least).

It's a cruel twist of fate that less than four weeks until my 5k jog I have to ENDURE chip-eating for a whole week. Sure are the perils of my job, I suppose!

I hope you can swing by and join us on the Breakfast Show this week...although the schools are off, we're still here bringing you the latest news, community events and traffic details for north Worcestershire.

That's as well as lots of brilliant music and even a bit of a giggle sometimes as well. Anyway, must dash...Ratter's at the door with a football under his arm! Crackin'!

If you need to contact 107.2 The Wyre or have a community announcement, email info@thewyre.com

WEATHER UPDATE

Cloudy, breezy but milder about sums it up today while there could be some rain about later tomorrow.

Scattered showers could continue into Saturday although a generally brighter day is in prospect. But as we move into the following week it will be colder with the occasional overnight frost.

DANI WOZENCROFT FROM WYRE NEWS WITH THE LATEST ROADWORKS

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving . . .

Kidderminster
Greatfield Road to Oakfield junction will have temporary traffic lights until tomorrow (February 25).
Birmingham Road has temporary traffic lights until February 27.
Habberley Road has temporary traffic lights until March 7.

Fairfield
Temporary traffic lights along Stourbridge Road until April 8.

Bewdley
Winbrook Road has gas main work from Merricks Lane junction to Winbrook Mews until March 25.
Kidderminster Road has temporary traffic lights until tomorrow (February 25).

Stourport
B4193 Hartlebury Road has temporary traffic lights between OGL Computers and Wilden Top Road until March 9.

Blakedown
A456 Birmingham Road has a 40mph speed limit approaching from Hagley until March 31.
A456 Birmingham Road near-side lane closed as you approach from Hagley until April 14.

Harvington
Harvington Hall Lane closed between Morton Road and the A448 Bromsgrove Road until March 6.

Winterfold
A448 Bromsgrove Road has temporary traffic lights from Lower Lodge to the Curslow Lane junction until March 14.

Join the team every weekday for updates on the roads. Tune into 107.2 The Wyre.
You can be a Jambuster, call 0333 123 1072.

Fighting on the Beaches

KIDDERMINSTER indie band Sons of Beaches are backing the town's football club.

The band will be playing at Aggborough Stadium in a fundraiser on March 5, joined by Charlie Davis and another act to be announced.

Tickets are £5 each and on sale at the Harriers box office or through carlwilkessob@hotmail.com

All proceeds will go to the club, helped by sponsorship from Klark Teknik which is providing concert equipment and a sound desk.

Sons of Beaches will also use the event to launch new EP, In High Definition, while a single – Broken Streets – goes out from February 28.

On March 6 the band plays the Robin 2 at Bilston with a return to Liverpool's Cavern Club scheduled for April 2.

The band plans a coach to the performance at the home of The Beatles. Details from lead singer Carl Wilkes at the earlier email.

Fundraiser for Harriers

HABBERLEY Club is to host a fundraiser for Kidderminster Harriers.

No date has yet been finalised but the night will involve a disco, hot food, bingo, raffle and auction.

Items from clubs including Wolves, Birmingham City, West Brom and Aston Villa are expected as well as from Harriers themselves.

Habberley announced that Harriers defender Aaron Griffiths has confirmed his attendance.

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Timetables launched for rail link

NEW timetables have been announced for the May launch of Chiltern Mainline, a new daily fast service to London Marylebone for the Kidderminster branch line.

The line is due to launch in May with a journey time of two hours 15 minutes, an improvement of a third against current performance.

The route is having a £250million investment and services will run non-stop from Warwick Parkway, so commuters will have very few stops en route to London Marylebone.

With Stourbridge Junction's 797 car parking spaces the service is an alternative to driving.

Chiltern Railways director Thomas Ableman said: "This is fantastic news for this area of the West Midlands who have previously had to travel before they could get a quick service to the capital.

We're thrilled to announce this significant cut in times and we know it will make a huge difference to passengers.

"Faster journeys is something that our passengers tell us that they want.

"We're delighted to be getting closer to delivering this," he added.

The timetables are available to view on the website at www.chilternrailways.co.uk

Big welcome on U-turn over sale of Wyre Forest

By Alex Wainwright

alex.wainwright@expressandstar.co.uk

THE Wyre Forest has been declared safe as Government plans to sell off England's forest land are abandoned.

The controversial plans sparked anger, with campaigners claiming public access could be restricted.

But it has been announced that plans will not go ahead, and the 6,000-acre Wyre Forest will not be sold.

John Aston, Wyre Forest District Councillor, said: "I thought it was wrong of them to even entertain the idea in the first place.

"Anyone could have bought the forests, and people in private enterprises would only want to make money out of them."

Passion

John Iles, founder of Wyre Community Land Trust, said: "It's very good news that the Government have listened. It's also fantastic the amount of passion and support there is from the people for the nation's forests."

The U-turn came after David Cameron admitted he was not happy with the plans, leading Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman to admit: "We got this one wrong."

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier, who originally described the consultation plans as "detailed and reassuring", welcomed the news that the Government has reacted to public opinion and ended any confusion over the future of English forests.

He said: "For me the single most important consideration is the future of Wyre Forest.

"As the local MP my main concern is to ensure continued access rights and biodiversity."

Now, ear's a thing

Set for the show are, from left, Sarah Collins with Snowbell, Julian Phillips with Bluey and Becky Harvey of Just For Pets with Casper

WITH the Chinese Year of the Rabbit now under way, three young people from Wyre Forest are organising an amateur rabbit show.

The free to enter event at Kidderminster Town Hall takes place on Saturday, May 28 to coincide with National Rabbit Awareness Week (May 23-29).

There will be several categories including longest ears and best rescued rabbit.

Fat Fluffs, a West Midlands charity that re-homes abandoned rabbits, will have a stall at the event to give advice about keeping rabbits.

Julian Phillips, who owns three rabbits and is the lead organiser for the event, said: "I don't believe that anyone has attempted to organise an event of this kind specifically for rabbits in the West Midlands.

"To help make this a success we will be approaching businesses in the district to see if they would like to donate a small prize each to give to the owner of the winner of one category in exchange for their corporate image on the certificates.

"We are very grateful to the businesses and organisations such as Just For Pets, Wyre Forest Pet Foods, Sam's Studios and local author JD Smith who have already agreed to assist us."

Sarah Collins is a student at Kidderminster College and keeps seven rabbits at home.

Wonderful

She said: "This is a wonderful idea, a family oriented event right in the centre of town. Rabbits are the third most popular pet in the UK."

Becky Harvey, who works for Just For Pets in Kidderminster, has been keeping rabbits for 14 years. She said "I'm happy to be involved; it is a really good cause."

Organisations wanting to sponsor a prize can contact Mr Phillips on 07706 418338.

Event details are on Facebook – search for The First North Worcestershire Amateur Rabbit Show.

Olympian task with the flowers

FLOWER arrangers in Wolverley are taking on an Olympian challenge in the summer.

Wolverley Floral Art Club plans a flower festival for June 24-26.

It will be called The Olympics, inspired by Britain's hosting of the games next year.

The club hopes to raise money through sponsorship and raffle prizes so it can make a donation to St John the Baptist Church.

Subway artists get set to make mark

TOP street artists are giving a Kidderminster underpass a makeover today and tomorrow (February 24 and 25).

Subway Deluxe will help transform the walls of the Comberton Hill subway. The team has worked on other subways in the town – and wants local young people to get involved.

Workshop

Anyone aged over 16 can participate in a workshop with Subway Deluxe's Ian Boyd Walker and Miss C, today and tomorrow at The Boars Head, Worcester Street from 11am-3pm. Bring a packed lunch.

Those taking part will help to create designs, learn spraying techniques and to make stencils and will also have a chance to make their mark on the new look subway.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest District Council's cabinet member for community and partnership services, said: "This is a great opportunity for young local artists to show off their skills and get involved with a nationally recognised group of street artists.

"We encourage people to get involved and make their artistic mark on the town which will be visible for a long time to come."

To get involved email arts@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or call 01562 732928.

Updates will be available on Facebook – search for Subway Deluxe.

Cracking the code, ready for census

EMPLOYEES in the Wyre Forest are being reminded to make a note of the postcode where they work.

They need to record it on the 2011 Census questionnaires which are due to be issued on March 27.

The Census is being carried out by The Office for National Statistics (ONS) to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales and the make-up of local neighbourhoods.

Nationally, around 25million households will be sent questionnaires.

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Pensioner hurt as fire wrecks listed building

A LISTED BUILDING dating back nearly 200 years was wrecked as 20ft flames tore through it, destroying two homes.

A pensioner was taken to hospital after fire broke out at Bewdley's former Anchor Inn, which has been converted into three flats.

Tiles cascaded from the roof amid fears the blaze could spread to neighbouring terraced properties in Welch Gate, which are also listed.

Residents ran to safety and also knocked on doors to check everyone had escaped. People living in the flats got out unharmed, but one 70-year-old woman was later treated for smoke inhalation. The second and first floor flats were destroyed and the rest of the building was badly damaged.

Welch Gate was closed to traffic after the fire. Five fire crews totalling about 30 firefighters tackled the blaze for four hours using a hydraulic platform to reach the top of the building.

The fire broke out in a second floor one-bedroom flat in the building's converted loftspace at about 10.15pm on Saturday, February 12. Residents of both neighbouring cottages were away.

The owners of the nearby Grannystap Victorian tea room, Mark and Karen Flello, dialled 999 when they saw smoke billowing down the street.

Mrs Flello, aged 46, said: "I thought: 'That can't be mist, it looks like smoke.' Not long later the flames burst through the roof. It was really scary.

Incredible

"Mark was running around knocking on everyone's doors but luckily a lot of people had gone out – but we didn't know if they were asleep or trapped.

"I can't believe it didn't spread to the other roofs, the firefighters did an incredible job."

Steve Link, of Welch Gate, said: "The embers were blowing down the road and I was convinced the row of houses would go up in smoke."

The Grade II Listed Building, which was built in 1815, was converted into three privately rented flats about 10 years ago. Only two of the flats are occupied. One, on the second floor, was destroyed.

People living in those flats were staying with friends and relatives.

Fire crews spent a total of eight hours at the scene until crews had finished damping down and checking the building.

Firefighters at the scene after the blaze ripped through flats at Welch Gate

Mark and Karen Flello at the flats

Barriers in place after the fire in Bewdley

Cuts threat to flood defences

FLOOD defences in part of Bewdley could be scrapped under cost-cutting measures, prompting fears some homes in the town will be put at risk.

The Environment Agency is reviewing how it will respond to flooding.

No longer using temporary barriers at Beales Corner is one of the options.

But Wyre Forest District Council has condemned the scheme, saying it could leave nearly 20 homes at the mercy of flood waters.

The authority said no alternative to the barriers had yet been proposed – the "most worrying thing of all".

Bewdley Residents' Flood Committee is also concerned the barriers could be removed, saying they provide a vital defence for homes.

The agency plans to meet residents at Beales Corner and carry out a technical survey. It said only a low standard of protection was provided by the barriers and there were problems with leakage due to the road surface.

Defences at Severnside North and Severnside South would be retained.

Chairman of the flood committee Gill Holland said: "The residents who are defended by these barriers at Beales Corner would deeply regret if they were to be withdrawn."

When IT comes at low cost

BEWDLEY IT training organisation the Wyre Academy is teaming up with the BBC to provide low cost computer training to the over-55s.

The move follows the provision of free courses which began in January.

Ellie Kent of the academy said: "The response to our free courses was tremendous and we helped many people to feel at home on the computer.

Campaign

"Now by being a partner with the national BBC campaign, we will be able to continue to help people to use popular software, emails and the internet," she added.

Courses will start in mid-March, run on Friday mornings and cost £5 per session.

For more information or to book, call 01299 404193 or visit the training centre at 25 Load Street (rear offices), Bewdley DY12 2AE.

Prayer day at church

MORE than 60 years have taken place since Kidderminster first staged a women's world day of prayer.

The concept originated in 1887 but the first service in the town was in 1947.

This year's event is in St George's Church, Radford Avenue, on Friday, March 4 (10.30am).

Details on 01562 822189 or by email at thomasroy4@aol.com

Showing the love at Pact

STOURPORT residents demonstrated love for their local community at a Valentine's Day Pact (Partners and Communities Together) meeting.

More than 20 people attended Mitton and Lickhill Pact at Lickhill Community Centre on February 14.

Priorities identified were the frequency of scrap metal dealers and their use of noisy loud hailers on housing estates; dog fouling on footpaths and the Memorial Park; concerns about speeding in the Gilgal after a car hit a house and litter in the town centre, especially the Riverside and canal basins.

Pc Jon Harris said the scrap metal problem would be tackled by multi-agency operations and Wyre Forest District Council was looking at issuing fixed penalty tickets over dog fouling.

Police may install speed-check equipment to establish the speed of vehicles on the Gilgal and signs to warn speeding drivers to slow down, while the litter issue will be tackled by young people collecting it.

Blood donor sessions set

BLOOD donor sessions will run in Wribbenhall, Bewdley today (February 24).

They will be at Bewdley High School, Stourport Road from 1-3.30pm and 4.30-7pm.

Attendance by appointment is recommended; call 0300 123 2323.

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BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235**

42YR old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360411**

I am a 20yr old slim blonde with blue eyes who enjoys nothing more than cosying up with a good man, are you him? ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360409**

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317**

30YR old attractive confident business women, frequently in area seeks older gent for mutual spoiling, pampering and adult fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358137**

I'M still single! Waiting for a nice guy of any age to sweep me off my feet. I'm fun loving and looking for a good time. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357141**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428**

CURVY intelligent young widow, 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to enjoy life's pleasures with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353429**

HI I am Ellen 45, attractive with statuesque curvy figure looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356135**

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable lady, 34 but looks mid 20's (its true) WLTM adventurous male 18 - 65, I'm open to most ages/things, happy to try most things. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355761**

WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855**

40'S lady, lovely curves, solvent but lonely, seeks nice older male to pamper, enjoy fun and affection with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358135**

30YRS old curvy black female seeks older male for cosy nights in. ACA **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357143**

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399**

LONELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC, WLTM similar man. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355247**

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351**

SHROPSHIRE lady 48, slim, attractive, N/S, seeks attractive male, 5ft 10ins plus for good times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359491**

30'S divorced nurse seeking dark skinned man for meals in, sitting in the back row, hand holding and TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359169**

SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241**

SLIM attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, lady. Can travel. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359167**

FED up with lonely nights! Blonde blue eyed, no children/ties, WLTM someone for cosy nights in and TLC. Any age/looks/race. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359165**

SOPHIE 29 generously proportioned lady who loves all of her curves, looking for nice older male for good times and nice conversations. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356139**

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373**

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357919**

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761**

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573**

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411**

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115**

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491**

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619**

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399**

YUMMY mummy looking for gent with GSOH to put much needed fun back into my life. No pressure just good honest fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358263**

ATTRACTIVE 60's lady looking for a good man. Loving, tactile and sensitive can you put the spring back in my step? ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358269**

VERY lonely young looking 40's female, solvent, OHAC, seeks younger male for chilled together. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358267**

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985**

CONFIDENT full figured and all woman, likes cosy nights in with that special person, looking for friendship maybe more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356133**

GORGEOUS 26yr old independent female with lots to offer to the right person, seeks similar. Willing to travel. Any age/status welcome. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358141**

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579**

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397**

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265**

ATTRACTIVE single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919**

PRINCE wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465**

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380918**

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799**

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTM gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021**

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315**

LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely, retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354183**

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 301001**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319**

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTM attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479**

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351813**

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627**

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751**

HI I'm Emma, a 31yr old smiley lady. I love fun and am looking for excitement with an fun male, I want to make you happy, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355765**

FEMININE lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355763**

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587**

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891**

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine, caring male for relationship. Telford. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354533**

YVETTE pretty, stylish, modern, 44, outgoing, bubbly, sporty, seeks male for nights in/out. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351997**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432**

SINGLE mum, new to area, red hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks handsome guy 30-40 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346715**

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, genuine, caring male, 45-55 for fun and friendship, maybe LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 347799**

GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327465**

SLIM petite, green eyed blonde, seeks tall guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338729**

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks discreet, considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651**

35YR old female, solvent, own home, likes movies, seeks likeminded male for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337191**

YOUNG at heart lady, mid 70's, seeks male friend to enjoy outings and companionship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335821**

WEST Bromwich female, late 50's, modern, romantic, easygoing, seeks active, genuine male, 45-60 for LTR. Driver preferred. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336759**

PRETTY size 8 female, 19, seeks male to spoil and treat her like a Princess. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335019**

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, nights out, seeks genuine guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333183**

KAREN 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attractive, down to earth, likes drink, dance, socialising, home life, seeks tall, professional male, N/S for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324349**

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301**

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes wining/dining, seeks mature male for fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669**

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 304135**

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTM gent, 70-80 for friendship and happiness. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330461**

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active, attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441**

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SYLVIE 59, N/S, long blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, slim, OHAC, likes cycling, walks, keep fit, horse riding, holidays, theatre, films, meals out, GSOH, seeks male for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321149**

TRACEY seeks special N/S, easygoing, loving, caring, loyal male to share life with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335781**

LEONIE 42, wheelchair user, have cerebal palsy, 3 children, likes theatre, meals out, seeks honest, genuine, sincere male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 318685**

PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fashionable, pleasant, kind, likes countryside, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403**

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317945**

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085**

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865**

ATTRACTIVE Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211**

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275**

WEST Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 343735**

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362478**

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323543**

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765**

FEMALE medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40-42 for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985**

FEMININE pre op TS, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315195**

FEMALE 40's, 5ft 6ins, brunette, seeks nice, caring, loving, fun gent, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329019**

JANICE 50 plus, young at heart, 5ft 2ins, brunette, athletic, likes outdoors, music, movies, seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316745**

MAGS 62, N/S, likeminded, GSOH, 5ft 4ins, brown hair, slightly podgy, likes meals out, countryside, days out, nights in, seeks gent, 55-67 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328787**

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367066**

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359238**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528**

men seeking women

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ATTRACTIVE male, 58, fit, N/S, OHAC, like wine bars, theatre, dancing, seeks attractive slim female, 50-58 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360699**

THOUGHTFUL adventurous, attractive guy, 37, OHAC, likes nights in/out, seeks attractive girl with similar interests. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360663**

MALE 55, likes pubs, sports, meals out, travel, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360617**

PROFESSIONAL N/S graduate, likes tennis, gardening, painting, searching for an intelligent, slim, kind, faithful lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360379**

ANDY 44, average build, likes country walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeks special lady for serious relationship. Telford. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360255**

48YR old male, own home/business, likes singing, seeks happy female to spoil. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323803**

MALE 38, 5ft 9ins, medium build, honest, reliable, trustworthy, seeks similar female, 35-45. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317403**

32YR old guy, likes music, cooking, joking, seeks female, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332365**

MARK 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, easygoing, honest, hardworking, likes sports, music, cinema, seeks special lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358971**

NORTH Shropshire widower, medium build, loving, caring, honest, seeks smart female, 58-70 for special relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358833**

TALL fit good looking friendly guy with GSOH, 49, seeks adventurous lady for fun only, daytime liaisons. Halesowen. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358747**

MALE 46, N/S, seeks female to sparkle back into life. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353781**

DAVE 49, own home, likes pubs, clubs, dancing, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337729**

WEST Bromwich male 46, 5ft 8ins, fair hair, hazel eyes, seeks female, 20-45 for relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358643**

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, 45, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks attractive female with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358431**

BRIAN 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes shooting, golf, tennis, rugby, seeks female for friendship and to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358353**

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable guy, little naughty, seeking a special female for love and romance. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358089**

STEVE 47, medium build, seeks female for nights in, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356361**

SOUL girl wanted, age 45-55! **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356855**

ACTIVE 30yr old, slim, dark hair, loves life, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352753**

CHARMING fit 41yr old professional male, seeks lively, caring companion for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359945**

52YR old male, fit, young looking, seeks female for wining/dining, days out and spoil. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359937**

YOUNG male, seeks female for romance and relationship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359785**

RICHARD easygoing, slim, blue eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, pubs, karaoke, nights in, music, seeks likeminded, laidback, bubbly female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359633**

TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55, size unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346611**

MALE 44, medium build, likes motorsport, seeks special lady. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348221**

FRANK tall, distinguished, mature, professional gent, seeks warm, responsive, lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359601**

MALE late 40's, hurt in past, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359451**

COUNTRY gent, 56 with own pink coach called Lyrica, seeks fit, blonde, dance instructor 32 to travel together. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358139**

MALE 52, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, GSOH, seeks attractive female, 50-70. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357905**

HANDSOME attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 219790**

YOUNG looking male, 50, seeks dark haired female, 20-45. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357745**

MALE 60's, widower, seeks nice lady who likes shooting, country life and sports. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357559**

DIVORCED male, Cancerian, 57, looks younger, seeks special lady to fill the empty space in life. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349993**

KEITH 57, white, smoker, seeks female, 48-58. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357467**

62YR old widower, OHAC, GSOH, many interests, seeks female to love and cherish, 50-60. Halesowen/Stourbridge. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357347**

WALSALL male 51, OHAC, tactile, seeks female for nights in and out, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357329**

MALE attractive, 52, seeks older, mature female, 60-70, any status or size. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 318021**

gay/friends seeking

BI curious male, 48, seeks dominant mature male for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359989**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892**

GAY male, 55, seeks similar gay male, 18-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355301**

adult contacts

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Handbag is stolen at church

A HANDBAG containing cash and medication was stolen from a Kidderminster church.

The small black clutch bag, worth £20, was taken from St John the Baptist Church, Bewdley Road, between 8.55am and 12.05pm on Monday, February 7.

The church was unlocked but not open to the public.

The purse contained credit cards, £95 and two packets of betahistine hydrochloride tablets prescribed for vertigo.

The medication is dangerous if taken by children.

A silver tray and an office door were damaged in the incident. It is believed the tray was used to try to gain access to the office.

Witnesses or anyone with information are asked to contact West Mercia Police on 0300 333 3000 or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Keep Watch for Genesis

THE classic prog rock sound of early Genesis is to be recreated in the county.

Modern prog rockers The Watch will play all the tracks from the Genesis album Selling England by the Pound at Worcester on Saturday (February 26).

The gig, at Huntingdon Hall, will also feature numbers from Trespass, Nursery Cryme and Foxtrot.

Box office: 01905 611427.

Have saddle, will travel: Bill Taylor with trusty steed in the Canadian Rockies

Learning award for outdoors man

AN ADVISER on the great outdoors has been given a prestigious award.

Bill Taylor, who helps Worcestershire County Council's outdoor education service, has been awarded a Fellowship of the Institute of Outdoor Learning.

It is one of only five such awards ever to be presented and recognises his outstanding contribution to the field of outdoor learning.

Mr Taylor started work for Hereford and Worcester County Council in 1991 as head of centre at Llandrug Outdoor Education, becoming an adviser in 2002.

He is currently the chairman of the Midlands region of the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and has previously been both secretary and chairman of the UK Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres.

Previously a keen mountaineer, he now acts as a guide for extended horseback and canoe expeditions in the Canadian Rockies.

Kayak

He has also paddled on all continents and led the first group to kayak around Britain and Ireland as a single expedition which led him to write the book Commitment and Open Crossings about the journey.

Mr Taylor, who splits his time between homes in Llanberis and Llangranog said: "I am extremely delighted and honoured to receive this award."

Colin Weeden, county council head of policy and transformation, said: "Bill has been an inspirational ambassador for outdoor education in Worcestershire and has participated in many national developments.

"Over the last 20 years children and young people across the county have benefited from Bill's enthusiasm and commitment to the value of learning outside the classroom. It is extremely pleasing that his outstanding contribution has now been recognised on a national stage."

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COMPETITION

thechronicle

Pinning down the latest in craft tips

Make your cushion a real talking point

WANT to pin down all the latest ideas in sewing, fashion and embroidery? Then pop along to the show that combines the lot.

The show, which features Sewing for Pleasure, Hobbycrafts and Fashion and Embroidery & Stitch is at Birmingham's NEC from March 24-27. And you could go free as the Chronicles have teamed up with the organisers to offer 80 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

The Stitchcraft show – Sewing for Pleasure – has more than 150 exhibitors and workshops including Heirloom Machine Stitching and Jane Greenoff's Itch to Stitch Workshop.

There's a chance to see the new knitting project Above and Below the Waves and head to the Pattern Bar to view all the latest pattern books.

With textile art displays and a catwalk show, Fashion Embroidery & Stitch is a must-visit for all textile fans.

Check out displays from The National Needlework Archive and the Quilters Guild. Don't miss Afghanistan Inspiration, which showcases some of the stunning embroidery squares created by the women of Laghmani Village, Afghanistan.

As the UK's largest Creative Crafts Event, the award-winning Hobbycrafts show is the show for inspiration, education, hands-on features and an unrivalled choice of supplies.

To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

What is the name of Jane Greenoff's workshop?

Send your answer on a postcard to: SEWING Competition, Chronicle series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, March 3. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final

Watch experts at work

Using felt to make a character egg cosy

FACT FILE

Sewing for Pleasure, Hobbycrafts and Fashion, Embroidery & Stitch
March 24-27
Open: 9.30am -5.30pm (Saturday 5pm)
Tickets: Adults £11 on door (£9 advanced)
Seniors: £10 at door (£8 adv)
Two-day ticket (adv): Adults £15 Senior £13. Children under 16 free if accompanied by parent (otherwise £4 in advance, £5 on the door)
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thechronicle

Groom loses battle against rare cancer

A BRAVE Kidderminster husband has died after a seven-month battle with a rare form of cancer.

The news ends hopes that 36-year-old Paul Grubb could be saved by "revolutionary" treatment which he had undergone in Germany.

Mr Grubb was diagnosed with the disease only a month after marrying the "love of his life", Magda in June.

Despite doctors giving him only weeks to live, the clerical worker kept on fighting the cancer, and friends launched a campaign to pay for treatment in Germany.

But Mr Grubb died peacefully at home in Baxter Gardens on February 8.

His friend, Deana Jones-McClaren, said today: "He fought right up to the end and he never gave up.

Smile

"He was a really genuinely nice person and everyone will remember him for his smile."

Mr Grubb, who had advanced cholangiocarcinoma, had hoped to travel abroad for The Gorter Model of treatment, which combines traditional cancer therapy with a new treatment that tries to build up the immune system.

He had already been given a two-month course at Medical Center Cologne, which he paid for by taking out a £10,000 loan. He returned home after Christmas and just a few weeks ago expressed hope that he would be able to go back.

At the time his wife Magda, aged 25, said: "We think the treatment was helping him but we ran out of money." Mrs Jones-McClaren said the couple had looked into ways of receiving the treatment in London but had no success. "He started to fade after that," she added.

Friends generated £3,000 from discos, quizzes and pool tournaments. "We're so grateful to everyone who helped," added Mrs Jones-McClaren. Mr and Mrs Grubb "married" for a second time in July at a fake Las Vegas-style ceremony in Blackpool.

Paul and Magda Grubb last month and, inset, on their wedding day in June

Rainforests in spotlight

RAINFORESTS and forest gardens will be the subject of the next talk to Hartlebury Common Local Group.

John Porter will address the matter on Monday, March 7 at Stourport Boat Club (8pm). Admission is £3.

Conservation work parties on Hartlebury Common will take place on Sunday, March 6 and Saturday, March 19.

Meet at 9.30am at Wilden Top car park.

More information at www.hartlebury-commonlocagroup.org.uk or call Dr Joy Rooney on 01299 877275.

Garden years in making

A 25-YEAR development of a house garden will be the subject of the next meeting of Chaddesley Corbett Gardeners' Club.

John Morgan will discuss it with members on March 9 (7.30pm for 8pm) at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall. Guests are welcome.

The recent AGM celebrated the club's 10th anniversary.

More details from Jean Smith on 01527 861437.

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the pulse

TV listings start – page 20

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING

Theatre and show round-up – page 19

Jim Davidson's new play – page 24

Russell Painter will play Camille

Count on Russell to make merry

KIDDERMINSTER tenor Russell Painter is making merry on stage at the Bridgnorth Sports and Leisure Centre.

Russell is appearing in The Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company's production of The Merry Widow, by Franz Lehar.

He is a regular principal with the company, having already appeared in Iolanthe, Oklahoma and Brigadoon. This time he plays the part of Camille (Count de Rosillon), an ardent young Frenchman in love with Valencienne (Emma Parker) with whom he will sing the duets A Highly Respectable Wife and the romantic Flow'rs Are Awakened in Maytime.

The show runs until Saturday (7.30pm with a 2.30pm Saturday matinee). **Tickets**: Bridgnorth Library box office, 01746 763257.

A Crazy 10 days ahead

SINGERS and dancers will be tapping their way through 10 days of Gershwin music at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre next month.

Kidderminster Operatic & Dramatic Society is producing Crazy For You from March 10-19.

It tells the story of stage-struck New York banker Bobby Child (Julian Richards) and his arrival in the sleepy town of Deadrock Nevada, to close the local theatre.

Mistaken identity, a troupe of Broadway dancers and a pair of English eccentrics, combine in a fast-flowing, fun script complemented by George Gershwin numbers including Got Rhythm, Someone To Watch Over Me and They Can't Take That Away From Me.

The society's youth group recently raised £360 for the Help for Heroes charity and the parent group will stage a collection at each performance.

The shows start at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday, March 19. **Tickets**: Rose Theatre Box Office on 01562 743745 or www.therosetheatre.co.uk

They can't take that away from him. Julian Richards with dancers, front from left, Alison Faulkner, Molly Parmenter, Zailee Parmenter and Philippa Lacey. Middle, Ellie Forrester and Katie Warrington. Back, Emma Paine, Zoe Arran, Emily Wyer and Jackie Rutland.

All aboard for fun – it's Fizzog on tour

Fizzog all set for some Nice nights out with Barbara

THE Black Country's Fizzog Theatre Company are taking to the road to spread their gospel of fun and outrageous entertainment.

The Fizzogs are joining forces with comedienne Barbara Nice, also known as Janice Connolly, of Phoenix Nights and Coronation Street fame, for a seven-night run of comedy shows including dates at Kidderminster and Stourbridge.

The "May Contain Nuts" tour is their most ambitious venture to date. In the past they have performed to sell-out audiences throughout the Black Country as well as producing their own "Black By Day" comedy/drama on DVD.

Now they are travelling further afield to showcase their comedy sketch show with music and dance thrown.

Founder members Deb Nicholls, Sue Hawkins and Jacky Fellows have grown in reputation and popularity with their riotous brand of Fizzog humour, not to mention the larger than life characters.

They will be at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre on March 3, Stourbridge Town Hall on March 4, Birmingham's Crescent Theatre on March 5, The Old Post Office in Wednesbury on March 18, Oldbury's Barlow Playhouse on March 24 and Brierley Hill's Hardwicke Theatre on March 31 and April 1.

Tickets: www.rosetheatre.co.uk or 01562 743745; www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment or 01384 812812; www.crescent-theatre.co.uk or 0121 643 5858; www.fizzogtheatrecompany.bigcartel.com or 07757 424618.

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Song and dance at their best in shows

SPRING is in the air at Birmingham Hippodrome where the Birmingham Royal Ballet perform Frederick Ashton's brightly coloured rural idyll La Fille mal gardee from Wednesday to Saturday, March 2 to 5.

A beauty upsets the apple cart when she falls in love with a farm lad in this enchanting family favourite ballet.

When producer and director Bill Kenwright brings his production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, on Tuesday and audiences will undoubtedly recognize the young man in the leading role.

Keith Jack was one of the most popular finalists in the hit BBC series Any Dream Will Do.

Watched by millions every Saturday night, the show was produced to find a leading man for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph revival in the West End production. Young Glaswegian Keith charmed audiences week after week with his vocal talents, finally coming in a close second to Lee Mead.

He went on to play the Narrator in the UK tour of Joseph and returns for the 2011 tour in the lead role

The Scottish singer and actor has appeared as Aladdin at the King's Theatre Glasgow, the title role in Peter Pan in Aberdeen and created the lead role of Charlie in the new musical Only the Brave, which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

He has released two albums. His debut called This Time went into the Top 40. His most recent album An Evening at the Musicals was released last year.

He will be wearing the coat of many colours at the Grand for six days.

Wild At Heart actress Dawn Steele leads an all-star cast in Agatha Christie's Verdict, which had its first performance at the Grand more than 50 years ago, at the Lichfield Street theatre to Saturday night.

Rachel Kavanaugh directs Lucy Caldwell's Notes To Future Self, about the daughters of a 'New Age' globe-trotter who return to Birmingham, which gets its premiere at the Mac in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston, on Thursday, March 3, and runs to March 12 before touring.

Dudley's most famous son, comedian Lenny Henry will be bringing his musical memories from Cradle to Rave to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Monday and will be back in the area for a gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on March 10.

Other comedy highlights include musical surrealism from Boothby Graffoe on Tuesday at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton; Geordie comedienne Sarah Millican has sold out her Chatterbox dates at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday) and at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on March 6; and Craig Campbell has sold out his Slade Rooms gig in Wolverhampton tomorrow.

The region's big musical blockbuster is The Sound of Music, with Jason Donovan and Verity Rushworth, which continues at Hanley's Regent Theatre in the Potteries until March 5. Disney On Ice present Disneyland Adventure at the LG Arena of the NEC this week with last performances on Sunday.

La Fille mal gardee – Michael O'Hare as Widow Simone with artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet. *Photograph Bill Cooper*

Keith Jack plays Joseph

No more burger van but Angelos is on the road

Shooting Star sensation Angelos Epithemiou is coming to the Black Country for the first time, as he tells **LEON BURAKOWSKI** via a dodgy mobile line

GRECO-LONDON former burger van vendor Angelos Epithemiou, the comedy creation of Dan Renton Skinner, is making one of his rare journeys outside the confines of the M25 to bring his distinctive wit and wisdom to the folk of Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

I caught up with Angelos via his dodgy mobile on a noisy street in the capital and he told me that though he had been to Birmingham before, he had never been to the Black Country – "though I did once visit Trinidad".

His recently found fame via the series of Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer's Shooting Stars spoof panel show, first as a panellist in place of Johnny Vegas and now as the keeper of the scores.

He says it beats dispensing burgers and bacon sandwiches.

"OMG! The burger van has been destroyed by mysterious forces," says Angelos. "There is no more burger van, so thanks for bringing that up.

"I got four grand on the insurance and I spent that on a tusk that I bought off eBay. Everyone's into elephants these days. It's a plastic tusk."

Mortimer 'discovered' Angelos when presenting him with a mobile caterer of the year award.

What did Angelos think about his madcap hosts Reeves and Mortimer: "They're a pair of idiots basically but I keep them in order and they pay all right."

He has other business ideas, including his own version of Poundland.

He's already got some wetsuits that he will be knocking out at £30 a piece.

"They were in a shop that got flooded. They've shrunk but they're all right," he says.

Dan Renton Skinner – AKA Angelos Epithemiou

Asked if he will miss the focus of his affections on Shooting Stars, Ulrika Jonnson, while on the road, Angelos says: "Well, yeah, but I've got all sorts of cameras set up to look at her."

Catch up with Angelos Neil Epithemiou at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday, March 9, or at the HMV Institute in Birmingham on Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12.

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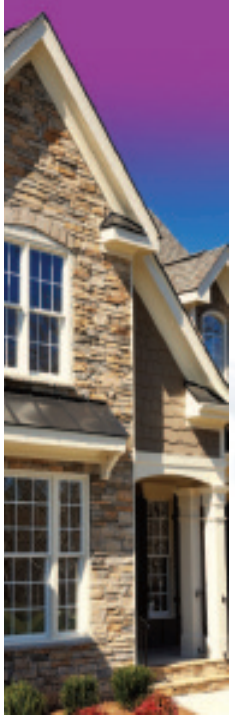

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Classroom Warriors – Panorama. 9.00 Crimewatch. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. 11.05 Crimewatch Update. 11.15 Late Kick Off. 11.45 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.35 The Apprentice USA; Weatherview. 2.05 Sign Zone: Silk. (R) 3.05 Imagine. (R) 3.55 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! Ten of the Best. 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Top Gear. (R) 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. 9.00 When Teenage Meets Old Age. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 An Island Parish. (R) 12.50 BBC News. 3.55 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Lakes. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Biggest Loser. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 New Homes from Hell 2009. (R) 11.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 12.05 Grimefighters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sail Mail. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 9.55 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. 12.15 The TV Book Club. 12.45 Film: The Mark of Zorro. (1974) 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Dispatches: Secret NHS Diaries. 9.00 One Born Every Minute. 10.00 Film: The Full Monty. (1997) 11.45 Music on 4: Beady Eye: Live from Abbey Road. 12.20 Music on 4: Intros: CookinBulkKid. 12.35 Music on 4: Manic Street Preachers: One Last Shot at Mass Communication. (R) 1.05 Child Genius: Five Years On. (R) 2.00 Rome Wasn't Built in a Day. (R) 2.55 Codex. (R) 3.50 The Bible: A History. (R) 4.45 A Film from My Parish: Six Farms. (R) 4.55 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.40 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 House. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.45 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 Film: Monte Walsh. (1970) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; Five News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; Five News at 8. 9.00 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. 10.00 Film: Ultraviolet. (2006) 11.50 Ultimate Fighting Championship. 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.05 Divine Designs. (R) 4.30 Great Scientists. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Cities. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Silk. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Neighbourhood Watched. 11.20 Girls Behind Bars. (R) Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 12.55 Human Planet. (R) 1.55 Imagine. (R) 3.05 Being Ronnie Corbett. (R) 4.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! Ten of the Best. 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Natural World. 8.00 A Farmer's Life for Me. 9.00 Horizon: Are We Still Evolving? 10.00 How TV Ruined Your Life. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Grimefighters. 8.00 Lion Country. 9.00 Lettie's Dream. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: The River Wild. (1994) Action thriller, starring Meryl Streep. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Crossing Jordan. 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Sail Mail. (R) 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.05 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. 12.20 Film: The True Story of Jesse James. (1957) Biopic, starring Robert Wagner. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. 9.00 Heston's Mission Impossible. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 The Big C. 11.40 Facejacker. (R) 12.15 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.15 FIM Superbike World Championship. 1.40 Bull Run. (R) 2.05 Freesports on 4. (R) 2.30 FIS World Snowboarding Championships. (R) 3.00 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.25 Powerboating. 3.55 ITU Triathlon World Cup Magazine. (R) 4.45 The Track and Field Show. (R) 5.15 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Rally Driving. (R) 5.25 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 House. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.15 Film: More Sex and the Single Mom. (2005) Romantic drama sequel, with Gail O'Grady, Grant Show, Chelsea Hobbs and Rick Roberts. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. Xavier's condition deteriorates. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs; Five News Update. 8.00 Stansted: The Inside Story; Five News at 8. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 Law & Order. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 Your Sport. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 The Boat that Guy Built; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.25 Film: Poltergeist. (1982) Horror, starring JoBeth Williams; Weatherview. 1.20 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 2.20 Stephen Fry and the Great American Oil Spill. (R) 3.20 BP: $30bn Blowout – A Money Programme Special. (R) 4.20 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Hairy Bikers' Short. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! Ten of the Best. 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 8.00 Attenborough and the Giant Egg. 9.00 A History of Ancient Britain. 10.00 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Fact and Loose. (R) 11.50 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel. (R) 12.50 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Live FA Cup Football: Notts County or Manchester City v Aston Villa (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Mercury Rising. (1998) Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Film: The Cowboy Way. (1994) Action comedy, starring Woody Harrelson. 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.05 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Country House Rescue. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: Heaven Can Wait. (1943) Fantasy comedy, starring Don Ameche. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Beauty and the Beast: Ugly Face of Prejudice. 9.00 Jamie's Dream School. 10.00 The Model Agency. 11.05 Shameless. (R) 12.10 Music on 4: Sounds from the Cities. 12.40 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 12.55 Crash Bang Wallop. (R) 1.00 Film: 2046. (2004) Romantic drama, starring Tony Leung Chiu-Wai and Gong Li. 3.10 Film: High Anxiety. (1977) Spoof Hitchcock thriller, starring Mel Brooks. 4.45 Without a Trace. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 House. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 3.20 Film: Abducted. (2007) Thriller, starring Sarah Wynter. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Starlight: For the Children; Five News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) Five News at 8. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Greatest TV Weddings. 12.00 Poker. 1.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 Your Sport. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Human Planet. 9.00 Famous, Rich & in the Slums with Comic Relief. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week; Skiing; Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: Classroom Warriors – Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 Britain's Banks: Too Big to Save? (R) 3.55 Rip Off Britain. 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! Ten of the Best. 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 The Culture Show. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best. 9.00 The Spice Trail. 10.00 Mock the Week. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 The Culture Show. (R) 1.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Great Tax Gap: Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Marchlands. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Benidorm. (R) 11.35 Send in the Dogs. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.25 The Great Tax Gap: Tonight. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.05 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 The Restoration Man. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Ultimate Frisbee. (R) 12.10 Film: The Hunters. (1958) Korean War adventure, starring Robert Mitchum. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Relocation, Relocation. 9.00 Love Thy Neighbour. 10.00 10 O'Clock Live. 11.05 Friday Night Dinner. (R) 11.35 The Ricky Gervais Show. (R) 12.05 Music on 4: CTRL MX. 12.40 Music on 4: On Track. (R) 1.05 The People's Supermarket. (R) 2.00 Dispatches: Secret NHS Diaries. (R) 2.50 The Inquisitor. (R) 3.45 Without a Trace. (R) 4.00 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.50 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.35 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 House. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 3.20 Film: Murder without Conviction. (2004) Mystery, starring Megan Ward. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Monkey Life; Five News Update. 8.00 Jaws: The True Story; Five News at 8. 9.00 Film: Pistol Whipped. (2008) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal, Lance Henriksen and Paul Calderon. 11.05 Steven Seagal v Justin Lee Collins. The martial arts star discusses his life and career. (R) 12.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 Your Sport. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Islands. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 QI. (R) 9.00 New Tricks. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.35 Film: A Time to Kill. (1996) Courtroom drama, with Samuel L Jackson; Weatherview. 2.00 Sign Zone: South Riding. (R) 3.00 Horizon: How to Survive a Car Crash. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 Athletics. 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! Ten of the Best. 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Athletics. 7.30 An Island Parish. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Britain from Above. (R) 9.00 Hidden Treasures of African Art. 10.00 Fact and Loose. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.50 The Mighty Boosh Live. (R) 3.15 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Benidorm. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Cube. (R) 11.35 Take Me Out. (R) 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.40 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.20 Sail Mail. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.50 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.05 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: Breakfast at Tiffany's. (1961) Romantic comedy with Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thought.tv. 7.30 Adam Gracefully. 8.00 Relocation: Phil Down Under. 9.00 Embarrassing Bodies: Dr Christian examines male fertility rates. 10.00 Friday Night Dinner. 10.30 Fake Tube. (R) 11.30 10 O'Clock Live. (R) 12.35 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. 12.50 Music on 4: CTRL MX. (R) 1.20 My Name is Earl. (R) 2.05 Modern Toss. (R) 2.30 Film: Teenage Paparazzo. (2010) Documentary about a 14-year-old photographer. 4.10 Reaper. (R) 4.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R) 5.55 Sail Mail. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 House. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.15 Film: Family Gathering. (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Natasha Henstridge. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Vets in Action. (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers; Five News at 8. 9.00 The Mentalist. A journalist is found dead at a mixed martial arts event. 10.00 Law & Order. 10.55 NCIS. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Museums Worcestershire

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Tuesday 22nd, The Commandery 01905 361821

Medieval Merriment
Enjoy medieval music and dance. Discover the delights of a Tudor lady's wardrobe.
Wednesday 23rd, The Commandery 01905 361821

Investigate the Tudor world of Mr Bean
Decipher Mr Bean's household inventory, create your own Tudor scroll, join the mini dig.
Thursday 24th, The Commandery 01905 361821

The Plague is Upon Us
Mrs History will take you back in time to the smells of the Apothecary's workshop.
Saturday 26th, The Commandery 01905 361821

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the pulse

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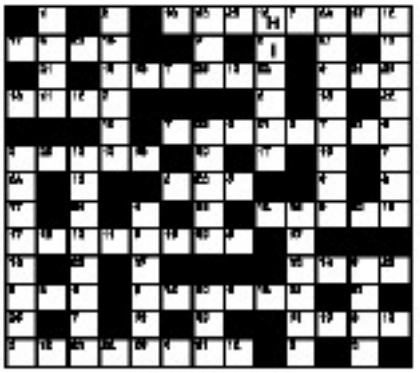
No.105

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letters to help you fill the grid to run you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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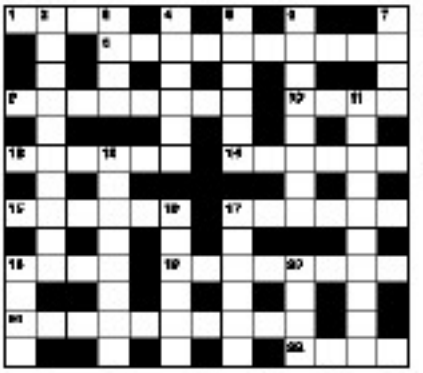
Double Crossword

Choose a thin quick or cryptic clues - both in the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Plug in doctor (4)
2. Then I lie to get in no man's-dignified seat (10)
6. Mountain pass to subdue rival (6)
10. Taken for the pocket (4)
12. Commissions high (6)
13. Rule in the herb (6)
15. Human [illegible] man (6)
17. Figure part of hands (6)
19. Fine night (6)
20. You may run in a printer (6)
21. He should lower [illegible] (4,4)
23. [illegible] coin back (4)

Down

2. Unable to work [illegible] (4)
3. Branch [illegible] (4)
4. Put up [illegible] (6)
5. [illegible] (6)
6. [illegible] run away in just a [illegible] (8)
7. Time to come up for [illegible] (4)
11. Can in all in [illegible] (4,4)
12. Attend to a patient (6)
16. Main road (4,4)
17. Lawlessness could be [illegible] (6)
18. Bidding [illegible] (4)
20. Mother about to [illegible] (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. [illegible] (4)
6. [illegible] (10)
9. [illegible]
10. [illegible] (4)
12. [illegible] (6)
14. [illegible] (6)
15. [illegible] (6)
17. [illegible] (4)
18. [illegible] (4)
19. [illegible] (4)
21. [illegible] (4)
23. [illegible] (4)

Down

2. [illegible] (10)
3. [illegible] (4)
4. [illegible] (6)
5. [illegible] (6)
7. [illegible] (4)
11. [illegible] (10)
12. [illegible] (6)
16. [illegible] (6)
17. [illegible] (6)
19. The (4)
20. [illegible] (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

[illegible]

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

		2		8		9	6	
		3	7				5	
5			1					7
	2		9					6
		5		1		4		
1			5		8		2	9
9		7			1			
	4				3	1		5
	8	1		5		2		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in the outer circle can be arranged to form words of a common theme. What are the three words, and how do the words relate to the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

[illegible]

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Purchase Fee £10.00
Total Charge For Credit £1,702.68
Total Amount Payable £12,397.68
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Comedy is not black and white for Jim and Matt

Unlikely partners in laughter tell **LEON BURAKOWSKI** how they developed mutual respect

Matt Blaize and Jim Davidson at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, where they will be appearing in Davidson's play Stand Up And Be Counted

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson has been accused of being racist, sexist and even anti-disabled but he will be taking the accusations head on in Wolverhampton this spring.

The 58-year-old East End comic has been to Wolverhampton many times, he married (and then divorced) a Wolverhampton girl, fourth wife Tracy Hilton.

But this time instead of a comedy gig at the Civic Hall, he will be treading the boards at the Grand Theatre, starring in a play he wrote himself which looks at the serious side of comedy.

The comic with four ex-wives and several children to support, and who was nearly bankrupted by an eye-watering tax bill, is challenging audiences to examine what makes them laugh in Stand Up And Be Counted! at the Grand from April 9, for a week.

Written during Davidson's self-imposed exile in Dubai, he will be performing stand-up comedy and looking for lots of laughs.

However, it will not be as Jim but in character as washed-up old comic Eddie Pearce, a character so loathsome and bigoted that he makes Davidson look like Eddie Izzard.

And he will be facing competition for laughs from a hard-hitting young black comedian, Earl T Laurence, played by Matt Blaize, who is a star of the London stand-up comedy circuit.

Other characters include a gay icon and a reality TV bimbo thrown together with the two comedians to perform at an Aids victims benefit concert.

Davidson and Blaize may seem as different as Chalky and cheese but the two have developed a mutual respect, though that was not always the case.

"I remember Jim on TV when I was a kid. Whenever he did that exaggerated 'Chalky' character voice I would get hell in the playground the next day," says Matt. The two met when playing different parts of the same venue, Davidson in the big room upstairs and Blaize in the small comedy club.

"Matt came up to me and gave me a stiff talking to about old school comedians, like young guys do. I said 'oh b****s' what do you know?'" says Jim.

"Then we actually got to know each other. I went to see his act and I did find him funny. It's as if he makes it up at that moment. Matt's stuff was genuine, from the heart, and I believed every word.

Insurance

"The fact that he had 150 people downstairs while I had 2,000 upstairs, that's going to change one day. He will be ringing me up saying 'do you want a support gig'. . . this is an insurance policy!"

When he needed a sparring partner for his play, Blaize was the natural choice but he got a baptism of fire, preparing for the play and honing his act in front of Davidson's audience as a surprise support act. "Matt's been working my lot and, I tell you, some of those front rows . . . you couldn't make one proper human out of the whole lot of them," says Jim.

East Ender Blaize has 10 years experience compared to the older comic's five decades in show business.

Asked why he put himself in front of a potentially hostile audience, he explains: "It is very easy to preach to the converted. What's controversial about saying things to people who want to hear it – try saying it to people who don't want to hear it. Yeah, but I haven't yet got Jim to perform in Brixton in front of 300 angry Rastafarians"

Blaize appreciates Davidson's craft, his timing and way he can work a crowd and Davidson responds: "Matt is a better comic than me when I started out. I just did joke after joke after joke.

"Cartoon black accent, silly Irish accent. Now I've been doing it for 45 years and I am a good performer technically." The comedian, who first found fame on TV talent show New Faces in the early 1970s, revealed that it was money and girls that fired his ambition.

"If I saw a good comic then, my first thought was 'I've got to be funnier than him', he says. "I have been a star not because of my ability to make people laugh but because of my ability to make other people money.

"But after New Faces I told my mum she would never have to work again, and she didn't . . . the lazy cow!"

Shocking

The play is about the clash of culture, generations and race but both men agree people should think about what makes them laugh. Matt says: "Comedy is going full circle with comedians prepared to say the most shocking things but that's OK because it is 'ironic'." Jim adds: "The difference between me and the character I play is that Eddie doesn't know what is offensive. I do. What we say on stage has consequences."

Reviews

Agatha Christie's Verdict, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

VERDICT is a curio for Christie fans. More melodrama than mystery, this play thoughtfully ponders the meaning of love and ethics. There is a murder but we know whodunnit. The 1958-set story concerns a brilliant Hungarian professor exiled in London, his chronically ill wife and the self-sacrificing cousin who tends to her. Enter a dangerously determined young student who has decided that she loves the professor.

There is one twist but no puzzles for the little grey cells and the play is a slow burner. The drama gets intense. Christie never wrote another play like this, was she exorcising personal demons? It is well acted by the cast of 10 with Ali Bastian particularly good as deadly deb Helen Rollander. Robert Duncan's professor had angst but lacked charisma. Harry Potter fans will spot Matthew Lewis (Neville Longbottom) as a student. Verdict continues to Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

Three Phantoms Birmingham Hippodrome

THREE artists who have, between them, clocked up 3,000 performances as The Phantom of the Opera, and one of the original Christines, joined forces for a one-night concert of songs from the shows that brought West End sparkle to the Hippodrome.

Two of the Phantoms, Sunday's show organiser and MC Earl Carpenter and the current keeper of the white mask at Her Majesty's Theatre, John Owen Jones, are no strangers to Birmingham, having played the leading roles of Javert and Jean Valjean respectively in the 25th anniversary touring production of Les Miserables in the city a year ago. The third Phantom, Matthew Cammelle, also had happy memories of Brum having met his wife in a past production at the Hippodrome.

Christine was the operatic soprano Rebecca Caines, who originated the role of Cosette in Les Mis and then played Christine opposite Michael Crawford and Colm Wilkinson's Phantoms. They were joined by the excellent 21-piece Concert Philharmonic under the baton of former Phantom musical director Anthony Gabriele.

The concert was presented with light-hearted humour, contrasting with the passionate intensity of many of the songs. The blockbusters were saved until after the interval. Then it was time for songs from Les Mis and both Phantom shows plus an interesting selection from some of the Phantom of the Opera musicals that preceded Andrew Lloyd Webber's definitive final version.

The showstoppers came from Owen Jones, getting massive applause for his gorgeous tender version of Bring Him Home from Les Mis and a soaring Til I Hear You Sing Once More from Phantom sequel Love Never Dies. Then all three Phantoms joined forces for a very special version of the Phantom's best known song, Music Of The Night. **LB**

The Sound of Music Regent Theatre, Stoke

HOW do you solve a problem like replacing a TV famous Maria? Get in Verity Rushworth. Problem solved.

The former Emmerdale actress has stepped into the role recently vacated by Connie Fisher and has lit up Andrew Lloyd Webber's touring revival of the blockbuster Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

The production's star name is Jason Donovan as Captain von Trapp, who got lots of oohs and one excited "here he is" from the many ladies in the Stoke audience, but it's Verity's energetic, funny and fine voiced Maria who makes the show. Her scenes with a charming troupe of von Trapp children, led by Claire Fishenden as Liesl, are delightful. Donovan's starchy Austrian/Australian accented captain is a solid leading man but I was underwhelmed by his big number Edelweiss.

There is excellent support, both in the acting and singing departments, from Jacinta Mulcahy as the glamorous Baronness Schraeder, Martin Calla-ghan as the rogueish entrepreneur Max and Marilyn Hill Smith's operatic Mother Abbess. At one point her Climb Every Mountain seemed to blow away the abbey walls!

While it can never eclipse the movie version with that classic performance from Julie Andrews, this former London Palladium favourite still has a big production feel.

It runs until March 5. **LB**

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Audi A6

ROAD 1

Evolution, not revolution, for A6

IT'S EASY to make all the right noises about becoming number one in your field, but turning those brave words into success is another matter altogether.

For car manufacturers it is a never-ending quest for more sales and a bigger slice of the market.

But the good news for car buyers like you and me is that the product on display in the showroom is better than ever.

Audi's new A6 is a perfect example of this. There's a good chance you'll remember the last-generation car: it was a popular beast, particularly in highly practical Sportback form.

The latest A6 is 15 per cent lighter than its predecessor

Models are packed with kit

No current owner is going to be shocked by the appearance of the muscular new A6

Sector

As a middleweight in the executive sector it was bang on the money, so why the need for a new one?

Time, and indeed the competition, waits for no-one in this kind of market, so to counter the recently-introduced BMW 5-Series and the still-young Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Audi has wheeled out the third chapter in the A6 story.

One glance is all you'll need to recognise that it's an A6: no current owner is going to be shocked by its appearance, though you'd be forgiven for mistaking one for its bigger brother, the A8.

With a more prominent grille and wider front wheelarches the front of the A6 has considerably more presence, and looks like a more muscle-bound machine. There's a gentle sweep towards the rear and a neat tail end, and the details are finished with the precision and attention to detail you would expect. It looks smarter but not vulgar.

Time and effort has clearly been spent on aerodynamics, which reflects the other big factor in the A6's rebirth: Efficiency. Every new car must offer a significant improvement in terms of emissions and fuel economy compared to its predecessor, and the A6 does so regardless of the powerplant.

Grabbing the headlines is the 2.0-litre TDI model, likely to be the UK's best seller.

Traction

Although it does without the quattro four-wheel drive system that delivers superior traction and handling, the more modest 175bhp and 280lb.ft of torque of the 2.0-litre TDI manages fine without. Not that it is a slow-coach by any means: 0-62mph takes a scant 8.7 seconds and the top speed of 141mph in more than sufficient.

But this front-wheel drive version is significantly lighter as a result, helped by the use of aluminium in the bodyshell. Audi claims the A6 is 15 per cent lighter than an equivalent all-steel version.

Combined with the efficiency measures including stop/start, the A6 is capable of remarkably economy and emissions figures despite the brisk performance: a CO2 rating of just 129g/km is comparable with much smaller cars and attracts modest annual Vehicle Excise Duty, while the combined economy figure of 57.6mpg is pleasing.

This balance of performance and economy is obvious out on the road. The instant torque means there's no need to stir the gearlever frequently to make respectable progress, and even when pushed the four-cylinder diesel is quiet and smooth.

Although many will choose an automatic the manual is sufficiently slick.

The good news on the inside is that A6 inherits much of the fine cabin design and materials from the bigger A7 Sportback and A8.

An Audi cabin is rarely anything other than a pleasant place to be, but the A6 is packed with kit even on the humblest model.

There is the usual wealth of options too, including Audi Pre-Safe collision protection, wireless connectivity and an infra-red camera, while colours and trims can be specified in numerous configurations.

All of which gives the impression that the A6 represents a considered and thorough evolution of the old car rather than a major departure, and rightly so.

MATT JOY

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Model: A6 2.0 TDI SE, £30,145

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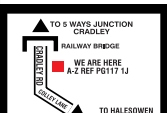

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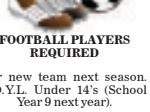

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Young looking 32 years, slim to medium build, employed, mobile.
Interests are cinema, theatre, dining out, bowling, concerts, walking, holidays, weekends away etc.
Seeks a genuine similar guy, aged 19-30 years for good friendship / possible relationship.
Photo appreciated (returned) A.L.A.
Box Number P16732 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN
Bodywork in good condition, own hair and teeth, WLTM lady 29-42 for LTR. I am a non smoker, 168cm tall, have sense of humour, even a personality at times.
Photo helpful and returned, go on you might even like me.
Write Box No. P16739 (SS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11ES

GENUINE 53 YEARS OLD SLIM
Wolverhampton Male, looking for Female, 18-55 for Friendship/Relationship.
Box Number P16743 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE LADY 64
WLTM tall honest gentleman 60-68 for Friendship or possible relationship.
Box Number P16736 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

I WANT A FRIEND, MALE OR FEMALE
They must be Black Country, an animal lover, likes caravan holidays and enjoys a drink.
I'm in my 60's but young at heart.
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Also next years under 7's, current year 1, boys and girls required.
Contact Bob on 07871 038504 or Tom on 07900 001274.

RESPECTABLE GENTLEMAN 60's
Seeks Lady for friendship, companionship and maybe more, photo appreciated and returned asap.
Box Number P16737 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Singles Dating Events ages 40+ www.whenthemusicstops.com/dating-events-in-pattingham or contact Tracy 07576 457372

TALL, HONEST, KIND AND LOVING MALE
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Box Number P16746 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Looking to trace descendents of Richard and Harriet Cox, formerly Fellowes who lived in Paul Street, Coseley around 1900.
They have at least three Daughters called Lucy, Sarah-jane (My Grandmother) and Elsie May and a Son called James.
Box Number P16740 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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£220, hitchlock, **£50.** Bulldog wheel clamp, **£90.** Wastemaster, **£35.** Aquaroll, **£35.** A frame mast, **£16.** Digital aerial, **£15.** Towing mirrors, **£8. 01902 657509**

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Quiet site in Mid Wales 6/8 berth, nice layout.
Site has fly/course fishing, country walks and childrens play area.
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guns & dogs

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
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Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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JACK RUSSELL Pups, 3 girls, 1 Boy, wormed, parents can be seen. £170. 07889 263060.

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All homes checked.
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Inquiries 07527 652706.

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£5,300. ono.
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£1,595.
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FIAT PUNTO 1.2, 02 reg, black, 58,000 miles, 3dr, FSH, Tax and MoT, excellent condition. £1,995 ono. 07792 041177 / 07795 178106.

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04 reg, 23k, tonic blue, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, fsh, excellent condition, 2nd owner, alarm, a/c, c/l, alloys, CD, petrol, must be seen.
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Estate, 2002, 78k miles, Zetec engine, metallic silver, e/w, e/m, c/l, air bags, pas, long MoT, 2 lady owners. Excellent throughout.
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FORD KA Collection 1.3, 2003, 3dr hatch, 20k, light blue, CL, EW, alloys, CD, excellent. £2,300 ono. 01902 680547 / 07871 976145.

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HONDA CIVIC 2.0 TYPE S
2005, 60,000 miles, 10 months MoT, metallic silver, two previous owners, half leather interior, five door hatchback, alloys, usual electric extras, excellent condition,
£4,895 ono.
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KIA SEDONA
7 seater, 06, taxed, tested, 113,000, air con, overmats, drives really well, plenty of power,
£4,250 o.n.o.
01902 651510.

LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.5TDi, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, V reg, excellent condition, extras, £4,850 ono. 01746 862209.

MAZDA 6TS, 2005, 2.0, petrol, hatch, 57,500 miles, silver, tax, MoT, history, excellent condition, 2 lady owners, £3,950 ono. 07960 174978.

MAZDA RX-8
54/05 reg, black, 12 mths MoT, 3 mths Tax, 85k, FSH, full leather sports seats, heated front seats, Boss sound system, multi-disc CD, SR.
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MERCEDES E 320 CDi Elegance, Diesel, 2003, Tax, MoT, 130k miles, £6,495. 01384 261684 or 07779 492666.

MG ZS, (54), atomic grey, tax/MoT, 40k, SH, new head gaskett, cambelt, service last week. £1,995. 07903 504947 / 01902 635772.

MINI COOPER Black, 2003, chilli pack, 17ins alloys, half leather, AC, low mileage, £5,995. 01952 405341 or 07540 330071

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PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN
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Telephone 07757 218347.

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07710 426892.

PEUGEOT 307 1.4 Estate, silver, 05 reg, one years MoT, nice car. £1,995.
01902 752590.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6HDi ESTATE
56 reg, fsh, silver, 37,000 miles, 2 owners from new, tax, MoT, new tyres, immaculate.
£5,250 ono.
Telephone 07812 204003.

RENAULT CLIO
1.2 16V, Expression, 05 Reg, 5dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, 49,000 miles, silver, abs, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger air bag, side airbags, front electric windows, electricv mirrors, central locking, sunroof, 3 months MoT.
£2,900.
07931 402074.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Dynamique, 2002, tax, MoT, PAS, Alloys, CL, £1,695. 07504 305018.

RENAULT CLIO 1500 DIESEL 04, black, 84K, MoT Jan 2012, CL, air bags, excellent condition. £2,500 ono. 07542 364419

★ **RENAULT MEGANE** Dynamique 1.5DCi, 56 plate, 37k, fsh, MoT, tax, leather, £5,795 ono. 01384 348338.

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05 reg, 5 door, metallic grey, Air con, ABS, half leather, taxed and tested, 60,000 miles, very good condition,
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07580 984868

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXi, 58reg, 3dr, silver lighting colour, £7,600. ono.
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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 03 reg, 3dr, silver, 1 lady owner, good condition, 12 months MoT. £2,295. 07504 848633.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2Sxi, 05 reg, black, 3 door, very low mileage, excellent, alloys, MoT, tax, fsh, £3,850 ono. 07732 332880.

VAUXHALL CORSA
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VAUXHALL CORSA Active twinport, 3dr hatch, 998cc, silver, 53 reg, tax/MoT, £1,600. 01902 676703 or 07714 281555.

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PEUGEOT 307 Sport, 57 reg, 1.6, leather interior, CD, AC, full MoT, 6 months Tax, 14k miles. £4,995. 07950 676464.

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sport

Fourteen medals for the Samurai players

TWENTY-TWO clubs from as far away as London and Scunthorpe took part in Samurai Judo Club's Green belt and under championships at Gilt Edge Social Club.

Although the Samurai were just pipped at the top of the medal table by Stroud, they still came away with two gold medals, eight silvers and four bronze.

Jack Hinton had several maximum point wins on his way to the semi-final, which he lost on the ground to a very good Coventry player. But he came back to win the bronze and start the Samurai medal tally.

Arran Gulliver was first on the gold trail. He started well and then just got better and better, eventually beating a Stroud player for a place in the final against a Newport opponent. Gulliver won the final – and the gold medal – with an excellent maximum point throw.

Molly Thompson, in her competition debut, had a hesitant opening win against a Newbury girl. But the boost to confidence saw her blossom and she reached the final against a Dudley girl, going on to win with a strong groundhold.

Gold: Arran Gulliver, Molly Thompson. **Silver**: Rory Gulliver, Alex Johnson, Ryan Humphries, Darcie Hancocks, Ryan Hardiman, Bryony Griffiths, Leah Williams, Charlotte Read. **Bronze**: Jack Hinton, Seb Moule, Emily Harrison, Hannah Smith.

Students on the ball for Harriers

SENIOR sports students at Kidderminster's Holy Trinity International School are on the ball.

Three are now with Kidderminster Harriers' youth team – but the school is also looking further afield.

It is preparing to compete in an international sports competition in Guayaquil, Ecuador in May.

HTIS head, Mrs Pam Leek-Wright, said: "Sport continues to be a major draw at Holy Trinity for students looking to study a range of sports courses in our sixth form, and throughout the school.

"In certain circumstances some senior students have even had the opportunity of taking sports examinations at the age of 15, gaining exam success by 16, two years earlier than their contemporaries."

Timetable management enables the school to drive students to and from training sessions and maintain close links with their sports coaches.

Kidderminster Harriers youth team players with school head Mrs Pam Leek-Wright, from left, Aaron Thomasson, Oliver Butler and Paul Hurrell

Carolians fall short by just one point

Kidderminster C 13
Bedworth 14

KIDDERMINSTER anticipated a tough afternoon against a Bedworth side who had hammered them 39-3 before Christmas.

But the Carolians are very hard to beat at home, and eventually succumbed by just a single, frustrating point.

Driving close-quarter forward play in the last 20 minutes enabled Bedworth to protect their slender advantage. It wasn't pretty, but it worked.

Kidderminster opened strongly but the first time Bedworth got their hands on the ball they made good use of an overlap to move the ball right and score wide out, ***writes Martin Easton.***

KCs shrugged off this setback and 10 minutes later great work by young flanker Mike Protheroe retrieved a lost scrum to set up a backs' move and full-back Ben Stanier timed his run perfectly before sending over left wing Nick Martin in the corner.

Three minutes later fly-half Andy McLellan chipped and won the race for a 10-5 lead.

Three second-half penalties for the visitors, against one for McLellan, gave Bedworth the victory.

MATT FINISH FOR VICTORY

SUBSTITUTE Jamille Matt came off the bench to fire Harriers temporarily into the Blue Square Premier Division play-off places with a late winner.

His Friday night goal, deep into time added on, extended Harriers' winning run to four games.

Sean Canham opened his Harriers account with a first-half goal which looked likely to settle a keenly-contested fixture.

But Adam Marriott crashed home a 20-yard free-kick in the 91st minute only for Matt to strike two minutes later to spoil the home side's celebrations.

The weekend's results bumped Kidderminster below the play-off line again, but Harriers manager Steve Burr was delighted with the win while admitting his side were far from their best.

"I felt we didn't get going as we have done over the last couple of weeks, our performance was a bit stop-start," he said.

Experience

"I was disappointed to lose a goal in injury time but for us to go back up and score, with the way these lads have worked, they deserve games like this where they come off winners.

"Defensively, to a man, they did excellently. I must single out Mark Albrighton – the way he has played for us all season, his experience has just held everybody together."

Cambridge took the game to their visitors with Conal Platt forcing a save from Danny Lewis before efforts from Danny Wright, Danny Walker and Marriott all sailed close to the Harriers goal.

Cambridge United 1
Kidderminster Harriers 2

Lewis again came to Harriers' rescue when he somehow diverted Danny Wright's drive away for a corner.

Harriers then clawed their way back into the match but a Keith Briggs effort on the quarter-hour was all they could muster before Canham tested home keeper Simon Brown.

With Harriers growing in confidence. it came as no surprise when they took the lead.

Tom Shaw delivered a right-wing cross that Canham controlled before firing a deflected shot past Brown two minutes before the interval.

Defences were generally on top in the second half but in the first minute of injury time Chris McPhee was harshly adjudged to have fouled Marriott 20 yards from goal and the young striker hammered the free-kick across Lewis into the left-hand corner.

But Harriers refused to lie down, pushing forward to win a corner. It was played short to Matty Blair, the young winger clipping an inviting near post centre which Matt raced onto, stooping low to send the ball across the home keeper before racing to celebrate with the Harriers fans behind the goal.

Jamille Matt dives to head home a late winner for Kidderminster Harriers
Pictures: James Marsh

Late Vincent winner keeps the run alive

Stourport 3 North Staffs 2

WHILE Stourport ladies firsts did not match their 13 goals of the previous weekend, they did maintain their winning streak in Midland Division One.

The home side went ahead with a strike from Lora Symonds and were on top during the first half without converting their opportunities.

North Staffs capitalised in the second period, first equalising and then going ahead from a short corner.

Stourport levelled with a penalty flick converted by Pippa Lewis before withstanding considerable pressure from the visitors.

Jodi Vincent popped up to deflect the ball in for the winner in the dying moments of the match.

Stourport 2
Birmingham Univ 1

Stourport seconds inflicted only a second league defeat of the season on their visitors.

Stourport went ahead in the 15th minute when Kayliegh Hateley's fine strike was deflected into goal by Chloe Marshall-Walker.

But it was goalkeeper Sally-Anne Smith who kept the University side at bay until the break.

Further resistance came in the second half from Stourport before they scored again on 20 minutes.

Louise Marshall drove the ball to Caroline Sidell, one on one with the keeper, to score.

A Birmingham goal 10 minutes from time set up a dramatic finale which saw Amy Miller make a goalline stop to retain the lead.

Stourport 1 Tenbury 3

Two well-matched sides produced a goalless first half before Tenbury pulled clear to beat Stourport thirds.

Stourport hockey

Louise Bagnall had scored to put Stourport ahead but three Tenbury goals from open play decided the destination of the points.

Droitwich 0 Stourport 8

The fourths handed a drubbing to a team without a win all season and who could field only 10 players.

Early goals marked the destination of the win and Stourport were three up at the break.

Droitwich battled hard but conceded a further five in the second half.

Rosie Connolly ended with a hat-trick while there was a brace apiece for Sian Humphreys and Teri Baron, Lorna Hawthorne getting the other goal.

Redditch 7 Stourport 1

Stourport fifths actually acquitted themselves well against a team second in the table.

The visitors struggled to get the ball out of their half in the opening minutes and duly fell behind.

The were four down at the interval but pulled a goal back within five minutes of the restart. Pauline Knott crossed and Denise Goodwin resolved a goalmouth scramble. But Redditch got a further three.

Close finish in greensomes and the three-ball waltz

BRIDGET TURNOCK and Kay Bamford edged the ladies' Canadian greensomes by one point at Kidderminster Golf Club.

Their 22-point haul enabled them to lead home Rosy Burton and Gail Miles, who scored 21 and finished second on countback from Lilian Weaver and Betty Price-Jones in the 12-hole contest.

There was a close finish in the men's three-ball waltz competition with Martin Ward, John Juggins and Peter Good topping the list on 81 points.

Second, a point behind, were Tony Davies, John Spurgin and Charles Tilling who got the nod on countback from Gary Saunders, Gavin Keyhoe and Graham Lloyd.

In the first round of the annual snooker knockout competition, captain Paul Massey beat Scott Turner 50-36.

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